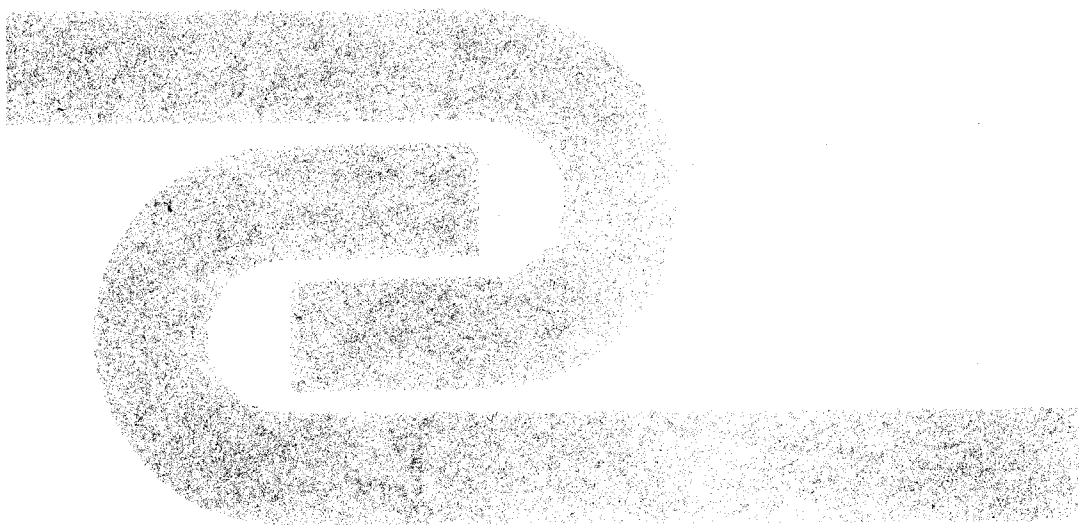


ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

ANNUAL REPORT 1980



Brussels

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Annual Report 1980

Brussels — 1981

This publication is also available in the following languages:

DA ISBN 92-830-0026-9
DE ISBN 92-830-0027-7
FR ISBN 92-830-0029-3
IT ISBN 92-830-0030-7
NL ISBN 92-830-0031-5

Cataloguing data can be found at the end of this publication

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 1981

ISBN 92-830-0028-5

Catalogue number: EX-31-80-295-EN-C

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Printed in the FR of Germany

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Preface

There is little doubt that the year 1980 closed on a sombre note for the European Community and that we face a serious situation. On the economic front, we are witnessing a recession in many industries – growing energy costs, the slowing down of investment, a stagnation in trade. On the social front, the consequences are clear: many bankruptcies, high taxation, less provision of housing, less availability of social services and, most significant of all, rising unemployment.

When economic conditions deteriorate, it often happens that ideals suffer and are cast by the wayside. Some evidence of such rejection of ideals is seen when some elements of public opinion seek panaceas in narrow national solutions and blame the European Community for all the ills of their society. We know this tendency only too well and we have resisted it in the past; members of the Economic and Social Committee are convinced that Europe's major problems can only be overcome by joint action, not by national solutions. Nevertheless, success can only be achieved by massive and sustained efforts from all concerned: political parties, governments, European institutions, economic and social groupings and individuals.

How can the Committee contribute towards tackling these problems? Firstly, it must have the support of all Committee members in its aim to obtain a greater influence and a wider audience. As the only permanent, purely advisory body of the Communities with an overall scope, it should succeed in focusing on the problems the viewpoints of the interest groups of the various categories of social life. In no way does it intend to encroach upon the prerogatives of the European Parliament which has controlling powers in the European institutional framework.

With this aim in view, we intend to develop further the actions undertaken by the previous chairmen in adapting the Committee's working procedures to the needs of the legislative process to ensure that the Committee's views reach the relevant institutions in good time. We plan to put into effect the changes in the Rules of Procedure which have now been accepted, i. e. the use of alternates, provision for greater transparency of views in arriving at Opinions and a judicious use of the right of initiative. These measures will go some way to improving the Committee's work and its relations with the other institutions.

Important for Europe in the 1980s is its relation with developing countries. It is sufficient to recall the Lomé file where the Committee's action is an example of very good cooperation with the European Parliament. It is also a proof of useful work

which can be done through the Committee by involving socio-economic circles in the debate conducted hitherto on governmental level alone. This has been officially acknowledged in Geneva by the Consultative Committee for EFTA and by Mrs Veil, President of the European Parliament, in her recent speech at the Economic and Social Committee. Further efforts are required by us in this direction.

Attention should also be paid to a hitherto neglected field, namely, relations with industrialized third countries, like the US, Canada and Japan. The Committee has a specific role to play by establishing and expanding relations at the socio-economic group level in these countries, to promote information and understanding of the European point of view. This implies the application of fair trading, anti-dumping principles, the combating of protectionism and the complementarity of efforts on both sides. These actions will have to be pooled to overcome recession, to bring about stable currency markets and to tackle jointly the problems of the poor countries. The Committee can make a positive contribution by propagating a growing awareness of the negative consequences of trade warfare.

In conclusion, let me stress that to be effective, the Committee needs the full involvement of its members and their respective organizations. Together, we can try to influence the positive growth of Europe in these difficult times. We do not aim for uniformity. On the contrary, the very variety of our interests and aspirations, the wealth of our cultural heritage in its many-coloured, many-hued forms and shapes of our regions, have a special contribution to make in the construction of a more united Europe.

Tomàs ROSEINGRAVE
Chairman

The difficulties which the Community has had to face in 1980 have been many and serious. The economic situation has continued to worsen and the prospects for 1981 do not inspire much confidence either. Unemployment, which was already high as a result of the recession, has exhibited more and more features of a structural nature, which can only be overcome by courageous and vigorous action. All this against a world context which is increasingly marked by competition where no holds are barred and by disturbing political tensions which often end in armed conflicts.

In some ways it is correct to recognize that the Community has done what it is supposed to do and expressed itself as a single, coherent unit on the world scene. But, sadly, it is also true to say that its reactions to the great economic and social challenges of our time have been inadequate or, what is even worse, non-existent.

The gravest risk which the European Community faces at present is that each Member State will turn in upon itself under the illusion that it alone is capable of solving certain problems which, by their very nature, require a combined effort to be made by the Community.

The Economic and Social Committee has tried to fight this tendency by exercising to the full the powers conferred upon it by the Treaties. And I think I am justified in adding that it has done so by remaining true to its vocation of acting concretely and realistically and by using the opportunities offered to it by its membership, in other words by involving as much as possible the major socio-economic organizations in the EEC. The goals which the Committee set itself in the year which has ended were certainly ambitious and we were all aware that they could not be achieved immediately, but only through a long and sustained effort. But I am profoundly convinced that these goals – the improvement of our working methods, the building of a different and more meaningful relationship with the other Community institutions and the forging of ever closer links with the socio-economic organizations which are to be considered as our roots – are more valid than ever and should be pursued with determination.

Raffaele VANNI
Outgoing Chairman

Role and influence of the Economic and Social Committee

In the light of the work of the Committee over the year 1980, the most important feature of which was the election of a new Chairman, a degree of choice has emerged as to the role which can be played by the Committee in this very difficult period for Europe and the world. This choice has prompted a number of hopes but also a number of justified fears.

The world economic crisis has encouraged the resurgence of individual and national interests, even if there is an awareness that the very extent of the challenge facing us calls for greater European unity and a more consistent policy of convergence.

In this respect the Community has admittedly been guilty of uncertainty and weakness. These shortcomings are linked to an insufficient consolidation of a real European public opinion and, insofar as such an opinion does exist, the inability on the Community's part always to interpret what the people want.

The loss of a sense of a 'European mission' - which is all the more serious in the Commission when we think of that body's institutional role - cannot be put down solely to short-term reasons, such as the marking time which takes place towards the end of a Commission's mandate. Such reasons do of course exist, but it would now appear to be time for a more general consideration of how the Community could be given a new impulse.

In this context it could indeed be said that the Committee, too, has been unable to play its part fully. Nonetheless, it must be pointed out that measures to stimulate and interpret European public opinion, or at least that part of it which is reflected in the large economic and social organizations, have suddenly become more important and have taken on a more complex nature. As a result we will have to redouble our efforts.

With the best intentions, a Community without drive or democratic control, a Community which does not involve cultural and political movements and organized interests, which is inward-looking and gets bogged down in protracted negotiations over minor details, loses all sense of perspective and basic purpose.

It is precisely this lack of an overall purpose, of a strategy, of an idea of new objectives which is most noticeable at present in Europe. In view of existing difficulties it would be no wonder if there were disputes over what solutions should be adopted or if there were even some failures. But what is strange, and indeed very worrying, is the lack of initiative and the increasingly more widespread conviction that the Community can limit itself to normal administration and to simply managing what has been acquired so far.

The consequences of the lack of a Community response are undoubtedly felt first of all in economic matters. The glaring shortcomings in social and industrial policy, the lack of resources available to the regional policy - which should be one of the main instruments for redressing the imbalances between strong and weak areas of the Community - not to mention the uncertainties weighing down upon the restructuring of the Community budget, and thus the new guidelines for a proper common agricultural policy, are not at all conducive to creating better conditions for progressing towards economic and monetary union and effectively combating inflation.

But such phenomena - and especially unemployment, which will continue to rise unless different policies are followed at national and European level - do not only have an economic impact. They produce such mistrust and social dislocation that they pose a serious threat to the whole democratic balance of society.

There have certainly been other difficult moments for Europe. But we must realize that our contribution towards overcoming the crisis must amount to something more than carrying out ordinary routine administrative duties.

One positive step which has helped to narrow the gap between the Community institutions and the peoples of Europe has certainly been the direct election of the European Parliament.

Another step can - and must - be that of upgrading the role of the Committee, i. e. its ability to provide a true representation of the major economic and social interest groups. In the course of the official visits made by successive Committee Chairmen to Dublin, London and Athens and the various meetings they have had in almost all the Member States with governments and the two sides of industry, they have been strengthened in their belief in the possibility of representing something more in the European institutional context. The work of the Committee has also given rise to hopes in many emerging economic and social organizations, particularly in the countries of the Third World which are associated with the Community.

The work of the successive Chairmen has been inspired by the desire to make the Committee a forum for the various groups, within the framework of the mandate given to the Committee by the Treaties. The Opinion is the instrument through which the Committee expresses its views on issues. But the technical quality of the Opinion is not the only important thing; what is also important is the way an Opinion is drawn up, the organizations involved in its preparation and the impact which it has at national level.

The conferences on the problems of Community enlargement and the building industry have been two highly significant events in this sense. They were also concrete examples of how to make best use of the Committee's right of initiative.

The Committee has thus stressed its political role. Nothing is more political than to stimulate involvement and give ordered and harmonious expression to the real demands of economic and social interests.

The Committee has rejected the label of a technical body, and its members were pleased to note that the President of the European Parliament, Mrs Simone Veil, has expressed similar views.

In future the Committee should aim to consolidate what it has achieved so far and to make ever greater use in practice of its central role in the great debates on economic and social issues.

Any assessment must draw attention to some of the activities carried out by the Committee.

In the external field the year under review saw the following developments:

- a start on creating closer links with the European Parliament; this will enrich both institutions while fully respecting the autonomy and role of each one;
- the respective roles and functions of the European Parliament and the Committee are clearly defined in the Treaties. Misconceptions and inaccuracies with regard to the Committee's role must be removed. A significant step forward was made by the visit to the Committee of the President of the European Parliament, Mrs Simone Veil, who gave an encouraging address on this occasion. The guidelines for liaison with the Parliament exist; they simply have to be implemented and improved;
- more direct and meaningful contacts with COREPER, which will make it easier for the Committee to draw the Council's attention to those of its Opinions which it considers the most relevant;
- the conference on the problems of enlargement which provided interest groups in the acceding countries for the first time with an opportunity to express their views; the conference had a political impact beyond all expectation;
- the symposium on the building industry which was an example of a new type of collaboration with the Commission which gives the Committee an opportunity to intervene before any firm proposals are made by that institution;
- the strengthening of links with bodies similar to the Committee operating at national level in the various Member States.

As far as internal matters are concerned attention should be drawn to the following developments:

- the reform of the Rules of Procedure which will enable the Committee's work to be made more transparent and will make it possible to lighten the workload of those of its members who find it impossible to take part in the preparatory stage of the drafting of the Opinions;
- the new Standing Orders of the Bureau have been finalized;

- the greater involvement of the large European socio-professional organizations in the Committee's work has already been mentioned. What now has to be done is to apply in practice the decision which has already been taken concerning the status of permanent observers which these organizations may have at the Committee;
- the adoption of the new establishment plan for the General Secretariat has been another important factor, especially as the aim has been to introduce an operational structure which is to last for a long period.

Some decisions have not yet produced their full effects and some new instruments have to be tested. The aims have, however, been clearly set out in the Committee's Opinion on the Dell Report.

The major decisions which have been taken have always had the support of a very large majority of Committee members.

Even if the Committee is not the only instrument which can be used by economic and social interest groups at this difficult time for social dialogue, it nonetheless has the great advantage of being a permanent body and a forum whose value will be enhanced as its members and the organizations which they represent work in the same direction in the European and national contexts.

Turning to the field of the Committee's external relations, the successive Chairmen made a number of official visits during the period under review, a number of meetings were held outside the Committee by various working groups and contacts were made with several socio-occupational organizations.

In April the Committee's Bureau held a meeting at Venice at which it was informed of the work carried out by the working party considering the Dell Report on changes in the Community's institutional mechanisms and procedures. Official visits were made to the United Kingdom, Italy, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the prospective Member States of Greece and Portugal. The Chairman's official visit to Greece was followed by a meeting of the Chairmen and Secretaries-General of the various economic and social councils.

In May a Committee delegation led by the Chairman attended the meeting in Geneva between ACP and EEC social partners under the auspices of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly. The Committee had been closely involved in the organization of the meeting and one of its members presented a working document entitled 'Small and medium-sized enterprises within the context of ACP-EEC industrial cooperation' on behalf of the Committee delegation.

This annual meeting, which exists as a result of close cooperation between the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, was devoted for the first time this year to the discussion of a specific problem. This was in accordance with the wishes expressed by participants at the previous year's meeting.

The appropriate authorities of the Committee will no doubt be called upon to give consideration - in the light of the positive but unavoidably limited experiences so far - to the role the Committee can play to ensure that the new Lomé Convention is implemented more satisfactorily.

Also in the context of the Lomé Convention a delegation from the Committee, headed by its Chairman, made an official visit to Barbados, Guyana and Jamaica with the aim of making preparations for the above-mentioned meeting in Geneva between representatives of economic and social groups in the ACP States and the Community. In the course of the visit the Committee delegation met representatives of the governments of the three countries, representatives of chambers of commerce and representatives of the various economic and social groups.

Following the established tradition there were contacts between the Committee and the ILO in Geneva and the Director-General of this organization attended one of the Committee's plenary sessions.

Representatives of the Consultative Committee of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the Economic and Social Committee held their sixth joint meeting in Brussels in February. During the meeting particular attention was drawn to the elimination of technical barriers to trade and to economic and monetary problems.

The following meetings were held at venues other than Brussels: the Section for Regional Development in Newcastle, the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs in London, a Committee delegation in Brest, as part of a fact-finding mission on the prevention of oil pollution at sea, and finally a Study Group from the Section for Agriculture in the French Antilles and Guyana.

During the year regular contacts were maintained with a number of trade, professional and related organizations, including UNICE, ETUC, COPA, COFACE, CEEP, BEUC, SEPLIS and a large number of national organizations.

Work of the Committee

1. AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Changes in the common agricultural policy

In November 1979 the Commission, acting in response to the then-apparent budgetary difficulties, submitted a batch of proposals for safeguarding and improving the common agricultural policy. These proposals were contained in a document entitled 'Changes in the common agricultural policy to help balance the markets and streamline expenditure'. The Commission's aim was to make substantial cuts in future Community expenditure in order to ensure that the Community did not run out of money and that expenditure on the EAGGF's guarantee and guidance activities was better balanced.

The Committee had repeatedly drawn the Community authorities' attention to the need to improve the operation of some of the common markets in agricultural produce and it considered that the Commission's document went a long way to ensuring that agricultural surpluses would be avoided in future by matching supply and demand and streamlining expenditure. However, it was also thought that the need to make budgetary savings should not be an objective that had to be achieved at all costs.

The details of the Commission's proposals were also commented on by the Committee:

a) Dairy produce

It was recognized by the Committee that the dairy sector was in an alarming state and that it was necessary to restore balance to the market.

The CAP ought to help towards putting the Community's most backward regions on a par, both economically and socially, with its other regions. With this end in mind, the following proposals were made:

- small farms should be exempted from the proposed supplementary levy on milk;

- the supplementary levy should be varied as a function of the increase in deliveries and the stocks going into intervention over a given period (e.g. the previous three years);
- the slaughter premium payable for dairy cattle should be raised and extended for two years;
- an overall policy in the fats sector should be introduced.

It was felt that in the years to come, the CAP would have to be constantly reviewed and amended in order to restore a balance to the market, though the CAP's objectives and in particular its goal with regard to incomes (as set out in Article 39 of the Treaty) should not be violated in the process.

b) *Sugar*

The Committee approved the retention of a quota system for a five-year period and agreed that these quotas should be allocated at Community level on the basis of objective criteria. At the same time, however, it trusted that:

- the Member States would have a margin for manoeuvre within the constraints of their overall quotas which would enable them to vary the A and B quotas in the light of specific regional circumstances;
- the reduction of guarantees would take account of important factors such as security of supplies, the maintenance of existing export flows and employment in the sector;
- proposals to cut back sugar-beet production, which would inflict unnecessary hardships on local communities, resulting in job losses, especially in disadvantaged areas, should be deferred pending an examination of their impact on employment in those areas.

The Committee recommended that isoglucose should be included in the sugar market organization and that present commitments towards ACP countries should be respected, though it was also hoped that the cost to the EEC would be gradually reduced and that the re-exporting of ACP sugar would be paid for out of the general budget.

The Committee also took a close look at a number of major amendments to the common organization of the sugar market which were submitted by the Commission in September 1980. (Text to be added on the basis of the Opinion now in the process of being prepared).

c) *Beef and veal*

The Committee had its doubts about the proposed suspension of intervention for beef and veal between 1 April and 15 August. It was, however, in favour of a Community carcass classification system, though the chances of this being achieved quickly were not rated very highly. The Committee also rejected an intervention threshold set at 90% of the guide price, for this would threaten the intervention

price's function as a protector of production prices. Finally, it was considered that the proposed premium to be paid to meat producers was too low and should not be restricted to only 15 cows. The premium should be raised to 100 ECU per cow and up to forty cows should be eligible.

d) *Cereals*

In view of the situation in the rye sector, the Committee was against the lowering of the intervention price for this cereal.

e) *Fruit and vegetables*

It was thought that the aid granted to the producers of certain processed products in the fruit and vegetables sector should be kept at a realistic level capable of warding off the unfair competition from non-Community produce in receipt of heavy State subsidies. In addition, the proposed reduction in the level of aid should jeopardize neither the interests of producers nor the Community's commitments towards Mediterranean countries.

f) *Starch products*

The Committee was unable to approve the proposed ending of restitution payments to producers unless other steps were taken to counter the threats to this sector, which was a heavy user of the Community's agricultural commodities and a major source of employment. The Commission's view that special measures were needed to assist the production of potato starch was shared by the Committee.

Farm prices

Though not going as far as the Commission, which established an indissoluble link between its farm price and CAP reform proposals, the Committee Opinion on the 1979/80 farm prices should nonetheless be viewed in the light of the Committee's comments on the reform of the CAP. It should be noted that in an attempt to limit budgetary expenditure the Commission proposed an average price increase of between 2 and 3.5% in the main, though only 1.5% was proposed for products in surplus (i. e. dairy produce and sugar).

The Committee was aware that the Commission's 1980 proposals had to be a political compromise dictated by budgetary considerations, but all the same it pointed out that the abandonment once and for all of the 'objective method' for calculating the prices would be seen as a threat to the CAP itself. In addition, farmers' incomes had fallen by 1.5% to 2% in real terms and the income gaps in the farming sector were still too big. In consequence, the Committee called for farm prices to be increased by a larger amount than the Commission was proposing - insofar as the budgetary situation permitted - and asked the Commission to discuss how the problem of income disparities in the farming sector could be resolved more satisfactorily. In order to keep consumer prices at a reasonable level, the Commission should also equip itself with means of monitoring retail prices and the distribution trade. This would rule out any clashes between consumers' and farmers' interests whenever farm prices were reviewed, for it would show that the non-raw-material components in the retail prices of foodstuffs rose more quickly in price than the raw materials themselves and were also not helpful in keeping consumer prices

at a reasonable level. It would be wrong to ask farmers to make a sacrifice unless this was reflected in retail prices.

Thus, despite the polemics about the budget and the CAP within the Community, an acceptable compromise was worked out in the Committee on the difficult question of farm prices between interest groups as varied as farmers, consumers, employers and workers.

Cereal substitutes

In November 1978, the Committee decided to produce a study for the Community authorities on the subject of agricultural cereal substitutes and, in particular, substitutes for feed grain.

The Committee took this move because although the Commission had repeatedly shown a desire to draw up a report on this matter, it had adopted neither an official nor an unofficial line so far. The purpose of the Committee's work was thus to collect all the requisite background information for the Community authorities in the hope that they would take the necessary action.

The Committee feared that in future there would be a net surplus on the Community cereal market, thus making it necessary for the Community to export cereals on a permanent basis rather than having to contend with a net deficit as it did at present. It therefore called on the Community institutions to find a solution to this problem which was consistent with the achievement of a long-term overall balance on the Community's cereal market. The initial purpose of the common policy which had to be framed in this sector should be to stabilize Community imports of cereal substitutes intended for use in animal feed. There had been a considerable increase in these imports (and in particular the Community's manioc imports) because they were available cheaply and, unlike cereal imports, were subject to only slight import levies, if at all. This would result in a considerable reduction in the use made of cereals in animal feed, thereby cutting back the outlets for Community grain.

The Committee noted that the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) was having to pay heavily for this imbalance. This was due to the Fund losing revenue as a result of the lack of levies on imports of cereal substitutes but, at the same time, having to pay out more in the way of refunds to Community farmers who had to find alternative outlets for their wheat and barley which they were unable to sell on the Community market. The use of these imported cereal substitutes (such as soya bean oil-cake) had been made easier by technological progress in methods of manufacturing compound feeds. This in turn had boosted the factory farming of pigs and poultry in some areas and dairy farming in areas with poor feed resources. It had also helped to keep small farms going. On the other hand, as feed costs made up two-thirds of production costs, there had been distortions in competition which had hit farmers in the least-favoured areas, particularly as a result of differing currency values.

The Committee added that if manioc imports were to be subject to the same levies as cereal imports, the price of pork would go up from 4% to 5% and would put up families' food bills by between 0.4% and 0.5%.

If this imbalance were to persist, the Community's reliance on non-Community suppliers would grow and its market in animal products would be overdependent on the world market.

Fisheries

The Economic and Social Committee received with great interest the proposals submitted by the Commission in July 1980 concerning structural policy in the fisheries sector. The ESC broadly approves these proposals, while pointing out that they must eventually become part and parcel of an overall common fisheries policy. It nevertheless believes that there is no truth in the Commission claim that the Community fishing fleet has a surplus capacity. Such an assertion not only distorts fishing-sector objectives, but will also make Community supplies dependent on non-Community fishing fleets in the future. Structural policy should in fact match EEC fleet size to the size of fish stocks and not simply be a response to particular economic circumstances. Finally, the funds allocated to the structural policy are regarded as inadequate for the objectives proposed by the Commission.

Regarding the problem of the distribution of the total catch for 1981, the Committee supported the principle of fixing catch quotas for Member States and for the introduction of an objective system for determining them. However, the method used by the Commission was rather opaque, especially as regards the distribution criteria underlying the proposals. In the case of traditional fishing activities, for instance, the Committee considers the weighting of the 1973-78 reference period and the lumping together of tonnages to be unrealistic. On the subject of the special needs of coastal regions, the Committee disputes the Commission's conclusions, since these penalize certain Member States to an excessive degree. Lastly, as regards offsetting losses of catch potential in non-Community waters, the Committee asks whether it would not be better to compare the loss recorded by each Member State with the total fishing activity of that Member State.

Veterinary questions

During 1980, the Committee discussed a number of veterinary proposals relating, in particular, to the combating of swine fever in various forms. Being aware of the scale of the problem and the dangers involved for consumers and producers alike, the Committee generally gave its approval to the Commission's measures. In so doing, it reaffirmed its support for a policy of unimpeded trade in the Community where only too often national health regulations served as a pretext for the erection or maintenance of trade barriers. The Committee also underlined the need for new members of the Community to be called on to abide by Community policy and measures.

CAP report

The ESC has always attached great importance to the underlying problems of the CAP and has on several occasions proposed guidelines and possible improvements in its operation to the Community authorities. Accordingly on 27 May 1980 the ESC decided to instruct the Section for Agriculture to draw up an information report on the CAP which would serve as a basis for a comprehensive debate between the various economic and social groups represented on the ESC. This report contains a

brief description of the CAP and its problems and a detailed statement of the views of all the economic and social groups affected by the problems of agriculture; it is intended that it should be forwarded to the Community authorities at the beginning of 1981.

2. TRANSPORT POLICY

In 1980 the Economic and Social Committee dealt with an extremely varied series of measures concerned with the common transport policy. These included proposals on weights and dimensions, a common air transport policy, the Community's infrastructure plans, the policing of accident prevention measures in Community ports, measures designed to liberalize road haulage, Community quotas and the compilation of railway and inland waterway freight statistics.

Across the board, the Committee recognizes the Commission's good intentions in submitting proposal after proposal to the Council so as to shake the Community's transport policy out of its lethargy. However the Community is making very heavy weather of it. Practical action by the Council of Ministers in response to Commission proposals has been sadly lacking. In view of the often stressed importance of the common transport policy for the economic integration of the Community, one may well ask whether the Community might not make better use of its resources in this area in overall economic terms. A hotch-potch of individual measures is no substitute for an overall blueprint. The danger is that we are liable to be left with pieces of a mosaic which will be a headache to put together later on.

It is therefore hardly surprising that time and time again, protectionist measures are justified in terms of the failure to harmonize contrasting national rules.

Thus, the ESC supports constructive Commission proposals or, following careful examination and consideration, puts forward counter-proposals or modifications which it considers to be economically and socially justifiable.

One prime example was: *weights and dimensions*.

This proposal amends the weights part of the 1971 Commission proposal on weights and dimensions which was agreed in principle by the six Member States in 1972, before the enlargement of the Community, but was never formally adopted. Difficulties arose as a result of the accession of the new Member States, and in 1975 the Council instructed the Commission to draft a new proposal to settle the issue of payloads and dimensions in the Community. The Council has from time to time justified the need for such a proposal in a great variety of ways but its main preoccupation is to find a balance, acceptable to all Member States, between *operating economy and protection of the infrastructure*. This the present Commission proposal seeks to do. The Committee Opinion - which the European Parliament's transport committee considered to be a realistic development of the Commission proposal - is a serious attempt by all parties to find a solution and, in the Committee's view, must be used as a basis for a Community solution.

The Committee approved the Commission's proposal subject to the following reservations:

The application of the Directive should be confined to combinations with not more than 5 axles and a GVW of 40 tonnes, with authorized axle loadings as proposed in the Directive, including the maximum of 11 tonnes on the driving axle of 2-axle tractor units. The Committee felt that such a limitation was justified in view of the economic situation of the railways, the lack of real coordination between different forms of transport, the foreseeable impact on the environment and on safety and the repercussions on energy consumption.

The studies in progress on the effects on the infrastructure should be continued.

The possibility of a derogation for the transport of 40ft containers in limited zones should be examined.

The maximum load for tandem axles with a spacing of more than 2 metres should be raised to 20 tonnes.

The Committee examined the case for transitional provisions enabling the Directive to be applied rapidly to existing vehicles. It also made proposals regarding the Directive's repercussions on the environment, road safety and working conditions.

Air transport

The Committee thinks that joint action is warranted in this area, too, for a wide variety of reasons. On the basis of the Commission's memorandum on air transport policy, the Committee considered in detail the Community's room for manoeuvre under Article 84(2) and other relevant provisions of the EEC Treaty. After initial Council reluctance to adopt Community measures in the areas of air transport and maritime shipping, the Community has now started to take hesitant steps in both fields, particularly when the Community acts as an entity in international organizations. The Committee welcomed the Commission memorandum as a first move towards mapping out new lines of approach in the Community.

The Committee thought highly of the Commission's endeavours in this area, but on the other hand did not consider that all the Commission's suggestions could realistically be taken up. The Committee was anxious to check the feasibility of the Commission's proposals and therefore focussed its Opinion on the following points: air traffic control, steps to facilitate air transport, the economic efficiency of air transport, including problems concerning fares and competition (plus social aspects), as well as the expansion of air transport services. On air traffic control the Committee suggested joint steps by the competent Community bodies. To facilitate air transport, the Committee called for the scrapping of various superfluous formalities in the Member States and advocated more flexible controls and handling procedures.

As regards the condition of competition and the closely related question of the economic efficiency of air transport, the Committee concluded that in the light of experience there was no reason to change the present regulatory system in the short term. Freer market access was not a suitable way of improving air transport services in the Community at the present time. The Committee feared that it would lead to a shift away from the less profitable routes towards the more popular main routes. The

Committee did, however, think that maximum information should be provided about the entire range of air transport services available in the interests of the consumer. The consumer should not have to bear costs not of his making. In the long term, however, an attempt should be made to phase in a more competition-oriented system in the interests of the consumer and the civil aviation industry. The specific features of charter services and scheduled services should be maintained as far as possible. Finally, there were other questions that would have to be thoroughly examined in conjunction with the expansion of air transport services. In this connection, the Committee welcomed the studies undertaken by the Commission, some of which have since been completed (inter-regional air transport).

3. SOCIAL POLICY

The Committee's main work on social policy has been the issue of two important Opinions on health and safety at work.

Firstly, the Committee gave its views on the proposal for a Council Directive on the major accident hazards of certain industrial activities, also called the 'Seveso Directive'.

In this Opinion the Committee pointed out that a series of major accidents during the last decade had shown that, while regulations already exist in the individual Member States, they vary considerably and are not always adequate. They therefore need to be supplemented by Community rules.

In view of the importance which it attaches to improving health and safety at work, the Committee approved most of the general guidelines set out in the proposal (need for Community action, responsibilities of manufacturers and competent authorities, notification procedure, etc.).

The Committee did however have some comments to make on the practical application of the measures and their cost, on the need for additional measures to protect workers and the public against major accident hazards, during the transport of dangerous substances in particular, and on the special problems raised by firms located in densely populated urban areas.

The Committee pointed out that the list of substances given in Annex II of the Commission's proposal was incomplete and that the toxicity criteria laid down in this Annex were practically impossible to apply.

The protection of workers from harmful exposure to metallic lead and its ionic compounds at work was the Committee's second major contribution on social policy.

The Committee welcomed an increase in the protection for workers using lead and considered that the Directive proposed by the Commission - which will affect about 1 million workers in the Community - would speed up the coordination of existing regulations in the Member States and bring them suitably into line with the most recent requirements in the areas of industrial medicine, hygiene and safety. The Committee pointed out that these measures should not, of course, prevent the Member States from taking more stringent measures to protect workers.

In its general comments the Committee emphasized that technical preventive measures should take priority and called for more research into certain important aspects of the as yet insufficiently known dangers of exposure to lead, as regards the reproductive system in particular. The Committee's Opinion also went into the problems raised by the cost of the proposed measures and their potential effect on the competitiveness of some sectors of industry.

Regarding the limit values adopted for the protection of workers and the deadlines for their implementation, the Committee thought that the limit values proposed in Articles 6 to 9 should be regarded as a first step. Insofar as they are not practicable in certain sectors at the present time, all necessary measures should be taken to make compliance possible.

In its annual Opinion on the development of the social situation, the Committee noted that unemployment poses a threat not only to material well-being, but also to the health and social situation of the workers affected and their families; furthermore, it jeopardizes the financial basis of the social security system, thereby threatening the very foundations of our free and democratic society.

Regardless of the quantitative repercussions on employment, technological change and, in particular, the introduction of microelectronics are going to alter considerably the structure of the economy and patterns of employment. This was why the Committee emphasized the importance of improving education, vocational training and further training so as to achieve a life-long learning process ('polyvalent' vocational training); the jobs of skilled workers were more crisis-proof than those of less-skilled workers.

Improving the coordination of labour market policy in the Member States is particularly important on account of continuing high unemployment with its heavy concentration in disadvantaged groups, especially migrant workers.

The Committee called on the Commission to take initiatives to improve vocational preparation, assistance and training for young handicapped people so that the largest possible number of them can complete vocational training with adequate qualifications. Comprehensive measures in the area of social and labour market policy were also needed to help old people.

The Commission should continue its evaluation of experience with existing schemes and measures to overcome sex discrimination on the labour market and to devise measures to ensure that girls and women have greater access to occupations that are crisis-proof and offer better prospects.

In connection with the Social Fund, the Committee approved a proposal for a Regulation providing income support for workers in the shipbuilding industry.

The Committee made various comments on the scope of these provisions and their possible effects; it felt that the special employment problems of the shipbuilding industry (high percentage of elderly workers) meant that the traditional solutions of the Social Fund were inadequate.

The Committee also urged that all measures to help shipbuilding, including Social Fund aid, be coordinated at Community level.

The Committee endorsed the extension until 1 January 1983 of the Decisions to grant aid from the Social Fund to workers in the textile and clothing industries, migrant workers, young people under 25 and women.

On the question of *social security for migrant workers*, the Committee approved the principle underlying the amendments proposed by the Commission concerning a worker's entitlement to unemployment benefit when he transfers his place of residence to a country other than that of his last employment and concerning the export of 'pre-retirement benefits' for workers who transfer their place of residence after they have become entitled to such benefits.

Finally, the Committee also approved the proposal for a Council Decision concerning an interim programme to combat poverty and the proposal for a Council Directive on the right of residence for nationals of Member States in the territory of another Member State.

4. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POLICY

During the course of the year the Committee traditionally produces two Opinions on the economic situation in the Community. The first Opinion, given in mid-year, is an own-initiative Opinion whilst the second is in response to a Council referral of a specific Commission document, namely the Annual Economic Report produced in the autumn.

The Committee considers its first Opinion to be its major statement on economic policy. Through this Opinion the Committee aims to inform the Council - and in the preliminary stages the Commission - about the budget and short-term economic measures which economic and social interest groups recommend and believe to be appropriate. If possible, the Economic Policy Committee and the Council Coordinating Group are informed by receipt of this Opinion in time for their preliminary deliberations on the Community economic budget for the following year.

In its mid-1980 Opinion the Committee gave its own analysis of the economic situation and then went on to indicate a series of short-term guidelines and proposals covering employment support actions in the context of sectoral development policies; re-conversion and restructuring measures; measures to coordinate Community policies leading to the convergence of economic performance; consolidation and completion of the EMS, as well as aspects of Community action to improve cooperation in the international context.

The Committee agreed with recent Commission assertions that current policies must be directed at reducing the level of inflation and unemployment in the Member States. It considered that the present prolonged bout of stagflation threatened to bring about economic and social disruption, and seriously jeopardized the chances of Community integration. It urged therefore the rapid introduction of a coordinated set of specific measures designed to boost employment and to give impetus to non-inflationary demand.

In order to halt the rise in unemployment, the Committee urged that short-term measures, tailored to the circumstances in the Member States, to steer public

expenditure towards labour-intensive activities be introduced. These measures should complement the labour market measures the Committee proposed in this mid-1980 Opinion.

The Committee considered that the structural funds could be used more effectively than they had been so far to help reduce somewhat the unemployment problem.

It went on to say that there was a pressing need for the Community budget to play a more positive role in bringing Member States' economies onto a more convergent path. The resources of the Community should be better distributed via the budget so as to enable an increasing proportion of the cost of specific regional development and restructuring policies to be financed. In the short term, the aims should be to improve the coordination of Member States' economic policies and, in particular, the use of financial instruments. An overall approach to restructuring and redeveloping stricken industries could facilitate the framing and deployment of a coherent Community industrial policy.

On the monetary front the Committee urged action to prevent soaring interest rates from depressing demand for capital goods at a time when it was so important not to stifle demand in those sectors endeavouring, for instance, to promote the development of new sources of energy, industrial restructuring, and technological innovation.

It concluded by saying that measures were needed to reduce the impact of high interest rates on small and medium-sized firms.

When it came to give its Opinion on the Commission's Annual Economic Report 1980-81 in November 1980, the Committee contrasted the general agreement within the Community regarding economic aims, with the wide divergence of views as to how these are to be achieved. Traditional economic relationships have changed, and general uncertainty regarding economic predictions reigns.

The Committee emphasized the fact that the terms of trade have generally turned against the Member States, and that this necessarily leads to divisive social arguments, since someone, somewhere, has to accept a drop in his standard of living; sacrifices must be spread fairly.

The only sure way out of the current problem facing the Community was deemed to be a high level of investment: investment for growth, for adaptation and for restructuring. Investment, however, is restricted not only by the many uncertainties that prevail, but also by the fact that company profits are very seriously down on what they were in the 1960s.

The Opinion called for the full participation of workers and their organizations in the life of the firms, which it considered an important factor in ensuring the success of economic and social policies.

It also drew attention once more to the importance it attached to the issue of work sharing and to the various proposals which have been made at Community level for the reduction of working hours.

So as to encourage investment in a situation of abnormally high interest rates, the Committee proposed that interest rate subsidies could properly be contemplated on investments central to the future of the economy - investments which are being deterred by the present state of uncertainty and high nominal interest rates. In so doing, however, current monetary policy must be respected.

The Committee looked at the other major problems that go hand in hand with a rapid adaptation of the economies; the need for manpower to be armed with the appropriate skills. It saw training and retraining as a major Community investment area.

The Opinion concluded by demanding a common overall policy, embracing measures to improve competitiveness, to create skills, to increase investment, and to step up demand. Such an overall policy would stand the chance of taking Member States back to something approaching the full employment they used to have in the 1960s.

The Committee's Section responsible for economic and financial questions prepared a detailed account of the economic situation in two Member States, namely Italy and Luxembourg. These reports produced simultaneously with the Opinions on the economic situation in the Community underscore the fact that the Community's economic situation as a whole is still but the sum of nine different economic situations each brought about by the interplay of a different set of economic and social factors.

On fiscal matters, the Committee gave an Opinion on a draft Directive aimed at harmonizing income tax provisions for workers employed in Member States other than their own. The problem arose from the fact that employees and especially frontier workers who reside in one Member State and work in another are generally taxed under long-standing international practice in the country of activity. The Committee generally welcomed the Commission's initiative in proposing this Directive and agreed above all that frontier workers should be taxed in their country of residence. The Committee, however, took issue with the Commission's proposal regarding the definition of a frontier worker, urging that the provisions of the proposal be extended to workers employed in the territory of a Member State but residing in the territory of another Member State to which he returns at least once a week.

The Committee went on to urge that the provisions of the Directive be extended so that a worker resident for tax purposes in one Member State should have his dependents taken into account even though they reside in a different Member State.

In addition to its Opinion on this direct harmonization proposal, the Committee started to prepare an Opinion on the draft Directive laying down the provisions for the third stage of harmonization of taxes other than turnover taxes affecting the consumption of tobacco. Whilst engaged on this work, it approved a Commission proposal to extend the applicability of the second stage beyond 31 December 1980.

During the run-up period to the adoption of the Community's 5th medium-term economic policy programme on which the Committee will be consulted in the spring of 1981, a Committee working group, as on similar occasions in the past, was engaged during the course of 1980 in discussions with representatives of the

Community bodies involved in preparatory work on the programme by discussing analysis papers on such subjects as:

- Problems and priorities for the 5th medium-term economic policy programme,
- Budgetary policy options,
- Problems of convergence,
- Employment,
- Energy, and
- Industrial specialization.

The Committee was able to let the secretariat of the Economic Policy Committee which prepares the preliminary draft programme have the views of the social partners on these important issues at a formative stage in the preparation of the programme.

5. REGIONAL POLICY

In 1980 Community regional development policy was hampered by the protracted, often heated debate on the Community budget. The Council had pruned the Commission's original allocation for the European Regional Development Fund and in its 'initiative' Opinion of October 1979 the Committee felt obliged to emphasize the need for an increase. The European Parliament also took vigorous action to increase the Community's role in regional policy. The Parliament felt that structural, non-compulsory expenditure should be increased at the expense of compulsory expenditure (EAGGF, Guarantee Section).

The 1980 budget was finally adopted after seven months during which the Community operated on provisional 'twelfths' of the annual budget. The 1980 budget awarded the European Regional Development Fund a total of 1106750000 EUA in commitment appropriations and 403000000 EUA in payment appropriations. The funds for Community support of national regional policies (quota section), are mainly intended to correct regional imbalances by subsidizing investment in infrastructures, industry and services. The funds for specific Community action, entitled 'non-quota action' comprise 58000000 EUA of commitment appropriations and 106250000 EUA of payment appropriations.

Expenditure falling outside the quota system differs from quota expenditure in that it is allotted to regional programmes which are:

- either geared to the regional dimension or designed to alleviate the adverse consequences of Community actions or policies on specific regions;
- or, by way of exception, to cope with the structural consequences of particularly serious developments in specific regions or regional areas.

1980 was also marked by preparations for the accession of Greece, which significantly alters the situation as far as regional policy is concerned. The Greek quota was set at 15% of the Fund's total resources. This required a cut in other national quotas either across the board or in line with GDP trends in the Member States, i. e. a weighting for the less prosperous Member States. The Commission

opted for the latter solution on which the Committee has to give its Opinion by the end of this year.

Specific Community financing programmes designed to reduce the United Kingdom's net budgetary contribution may also affect development in particularly backward regions in the UK.

Against this general background, the Committee and its Regional Development Section issued several Opinions:

- a) The Committee reviewed national regional development programmes on its own initiative. Community contributions to regional development are based on these medium-term programmes.

The Committee enlisted the aid of national experts in order to identify the grounds for the priorities adopted by the national authorities.

The Committee stressed the need for comparable statistics, the danger of action and the need to set Community-level priorities. It also recommended a more flexible regional policy capable of reacting effectively to economic change and urged other sectoral policies to take account of regional problems. The Committee was reticent about the value of national quotas and called for an increase in the ERDF's non-quota section. Finally it reiterated the need for more cash.

- b) The Committee called for closer coordination of the structurally orientated Community financial instruments: the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the EAGGF (Guidance Section), the financial instruments specified in the ECSC Treaty, the European Investment Bank and the financial measures to reduce EEC dependence on imported energy (Ortoli facilities etc.). The Committee also drew up a study on an integrated operation to coordinate assistance for the Lorraine region which had been hard hit by the rundown of the steel industry.

Apart from the specific comments on Lorraine, the Committee also identified a number of factors crucial to the success of integrated operations in general. The Committee stressed that such operations should be incorporated in a development programme and monitored by regional working parties in permanent contact with national and Community authorities.

Other studies are in hand on integrated operations for Naples and Belfast.

- c) The Committee pursued its examination of non-quota measures which it had approved in principle on 13 December 1979. Council approval of these measures had been postponed until autumn 1980 because of difficulties in deciding which regions were eligible for Community aid and in allocating funds to the initial five specific programmes. These programmes were designed to contribute:
- to the development of regions in France and Italy which would be affected by the enlargement of the Community;
 - to removing obstacles to the development of new economic activities in areas hit by the streamlining of the steel industry;

- to removing obstacles to the development of new economic activities in areas hit by the rundown in shipbuilding;
 - to improving energy supply security in certain Community regions by better use of new hydro-electric generation techniques and alternative energy sources;
 - to improving economic and social conditions along the Irish border.
- d) As in previous years, the Committee considered the Commission's Annual Report setting out all the facts and figures needed to assess the work of the European Fund in 1979. The Committee Opinion deplores the belated adoption by the Council of the schemes falling outside the quota system - which had been provided for as early as 1978 - and the fact that they are still not being implemented. The Committee also feels that it takes too long to approve schemes, that statistics are not always sufficiently intercomparable, and that publicity about ERDF support is confused and too discreet.

Given the importance of regional policy for European integration, the Opinion recommends that representatives of economic and social interests should sit on the Regional Policy Committee.

- e) In the closing months of the year, the work of the Regional Section was focused on the review of the ERDF Regulation. The Committee was consulted on a draft proposal for a partial reform (introduction of a 15 % Greek quota for 1981, with a corresponding reduction - weighted in terms of GNP - of the quotas of the other Member States). The Committee endorsed the proposal, though it said that this temporary quota should not prejudice the size of the quotas subsequently laid down for other new members; it also reiterated its comments about the need to concentrate ERDF support on regions which warranted special assistance. The Committee argued that the new ERDF budget should, apart from enlargement, ensure an increase in real terms in the funds allotted to each Member State.

The Committee decided to anticipate the work of the Commission and take up, on its own initiative, the question of the overall reform of the ERDF Regulation.

6. INDUSTRIAL POLICY

The Committee completed its work on the structural aspects of growth. This Opinion fleshed out the industrial policy section of its 1977 Opinion on industrial change and employment.

The Committee examined the main causes of the economic slowdown and singled out the emergence of new social, energy and environmental constraints.

The Committee criticized the conventional definition of growth, that is to say the process of increasing GNP, defined as the goods and services produced by a given economic system. The fundamental GNP criterion should be coupled with indices taking account of the quality of life. A new growth strategy should therefore be concerned to improve the operation of the economic system by encouraging a

demand structure geared to economic and social objectives, and by promoting better use of resources.

The Committee then reviewed a number of general factors affecting growth strategy, such as market transparency and information, rationalization of the financial market, greater monetary and exchange-rate stability, investment promotion in underdeveloped regions. Public purchasing and technological innovation had a key role here, the Committee said.

The Committee listed criteria for identifying sectors which could revitalize growth:

- growth strategy must provide a creative response to quantitative and qualitative changes in factors of production, including labour - the various skills and trades - and energy;
- it must guarantee a high degree of self-sufficiency and scientific and technological independence since these are the keys to growth control;
- it must trim production costs so as to improve Community competitiveness on world markets and bring about a better international division of labour;
- it must respond to shifts in domestic and international demand, with particular reference to the expectations of the most underprivileged social groups, regions and countries.

The above criteria were satisfied by the sectors listed in the Commission document - electronics, informatics, aerospace and transport, energy and raw materials, building and the tertiary sector. The Committee also listed another sector - the food industry.

Symposium on Construction and Growth

In conjunction with the Commission, the Committee held a symposium on construction and growth. The aim was to identify the building trade's potential contribution to economic growth, and to ascertain what the Community could do to provide support and resolve the sector's main problems.

The symposium centred on three themes:

- a) The state of the construction sector.
- b) Rehabilitation.
- c) Open industrialized building (compatible components).

Subsidiary factors considered were the financing of new construction, energy conservation, standards and alignment procedures, employment and working conditions.

The wide-ranging debate between the two-hundred odd participants (ESC members, Commission delegates and leading Community and national figures in the building industry) revealed general agreement on a three-fold objective - enabling the sector to regain its role as a force for economic growth and to compete

with its non-Community rivals on an equal footing, securing genuine free circulation of goods on the basis of uniform standards.

The symposium, which was attended by Commissioner Davignon, will provide the bedrock for the Committee's Opinion on the construction sector. In turn, this Opinion will give the Commission a solid foundation for any subsequent Community measures.

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The Committee also issued Opinions on Commission documents concerning industries which have been particularly hard hit by the recession, such as ship-building, or which are likely to contribute to the Community's economic growth, such as the new information technologies. The analysis of the latter will be continued in 1981 in an Opinion which the Committee proposes drawing up on microelectronics and telecommunications.

Establishment and services

The Committee finished its work on three important draft Directives:

- the proposal for a Council Directive on the coordination of legislation on insurance;
- the proposal for a Council Directive amending, as regards credit insurance, Directive 73/239/EEC on the coordination of legislation on direct insurance other than life insurance;
- the proposal for a Council Directive on the coordination of legislation on legal expenses insurance.

Whilst the first two proposals were dispatched without undue difficulty, the Directive on legal expenses insurance sparked off protracted discussions in the Study Group on Establishment and Services and in the Industry Section. One of the chief bones of contention was how to coordinate legal expenses insurance at Community level while minimizing conflicts of interest.

Different arrangements for legal expenses insurance exist in the Member States. In some countries any composite company may offer both legal expenses insurance and other types of insurance, such as vehicle, general civil liability and fire insurance (dualist system); in other Member States legal expenses insurance may not be offered by a company dealing in other insurance. In other countries again composite companies may hive off legal expenses insurance to subsidiaries with separate legal personalities.

In its Opinion, the Committee said it felt that coordination in this area should be organized in such a way as to bring about freedom of establishment as called for in the Treaty. This should be done as far as possible by removing sources of conflicts of interest and avoiding any formula likely to increase the costs borne by policyholders.

The Committee noted that the proposed Directive gave the Member States the opportunity of making it compulsory for claims regarding legal expenses insurance

to be handled by a legally separate company (Article 3(3)). Some Member States would take advantage of this opportunity while others would not. But this did not fit in with the aim of the proposed Directive, which was to coordinate things and create equal conditions of competition as regards freedom of establishment.

Moreover, the basic objective, which was to avoid conflicts of interest, would only be attained in countries which decided to make separate claims settlement compulsory.

The Committee therefore recommended that the system of having legally separate offices for settling claims should be made general; such a system would also help consumers to save money, as it would reduce the number of cases where a lawyer had to be called in.

In order to avoid ambiguity the provisions concerning the production of policies should be kept separately from those concerning the management of claims. The Committee also began work on the second draft Council Directive on civil liability insurance in respect of motor vehicles. This Opinion is scheduled for the first quarter of 1981.

Customs alignment

The Committee issued Opinions on:

- (i) International passenger traffic;
- (ii) VAT exemption for ships stores;
- (iii) VAT exemption on final importation of various goods.

7. TECHNICAL BARRIERS

The Committee issued Opinions on:

- (i) Fuel consumption and engine rating;
- (ii) Rear-view mirrors;
- (iii) Building plant noise levels;
- (iv) Industrial trucks;
- (v) Community certification;
- (vi) Roll-over bars for plant building;
- (vii) Overhead guards for building plant;
- (viii) Electrical equipment for use in fire-damp mines;
- (ix) Safety belts (vehicles);
- (x) Safety belt anchorages;
- (xi) Vehicle seats;
- (xii) Textile names.

The Committee also started work on the draft Council Decision on technical standards and regulations. This proposal springs from the entirely new approach forced on the Commission by the Court of Justice ruling on 'Cassis de Dijon'. The Court ruled that any product legally produced and marketed in one Member State should normally be admitted to any other Member State; the only permissible exceptions were those specified by the Treaty (protection of health, public security,

etc.). The Commission proposal would require Member States to provide national standards institutes with full details of any draft standards and technical regulations, before they become law.

Incidentally, the Committee's 1979 own-initiative Opinion on trade barriers called for closer cooperation between the Commission and national standards institutes.

8. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

In this field, the Economic and Social Committee carried out some important work on the consistency of the Community's external policies. The aim of this work was to see to what extent different internal and external policy measures contradicted each other.

This long-term exercise, which involves a lot of research, should be finished by mid-1981.

A delegation from the Economic and Social Committee attended a meeting of economic and social interest groups from the ACP and EEC States in Geneva on 31 May. Also present were thirteen members of the European Parliament and thirteen representatives of the Joint Committee of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly.

This meeting provided an opportunity for a very open and thorough discussion on the guidelines to be followed by the appropriate authorities when implementing the provisions of the second Lomé Convention relating to the strengthening of smaller firms and the role played by them.

The Committee also continued its work on the Community's special relations with the ACP countries under the second Lomé Convention.

Through its Section for External Relations the Committee maintained its contacts with the professional organizations of EFTA. A meeting organized in February was devoted to comparing procedures regarding non-tariff barriers to trade in both the EEC and EFTA countries.

An attempt was made to identify areas where there could be collaboration between the two institutions, either directly or within international organizations for standardization.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to compare the different economic and social policies followed in the countries concerned to overcome the present economic crisis and, in particular, to stimulate employment.

During the year, the Committee adopted an initial Opinion on a Commission communication to the Council concerning the food aid regulations for 1980.

Although the Committee considered that the criteria for the allocation of food aid had proved reasonably satisfactory, it did feel that a review was necessary to ensure that limited resources were concentrated on the most needy countries. The Committee

thought that if budgetary circumstances permitted, the cereal programme for 1980 should be increased to 1 020 500 tonnes.

In a further Opinion on food aid, the Committee dwelt on the importance of:

- careful country programming of all forms of Community assistance to developing countries so that food aid could be coordinated with other forms of development aid;
- adjusting food aid to the developing countries' level of administrative efficiency;
- undertaking a thorough examination of the needs that new commodities would have to satisfy before being supplied as food aid.

The Committee also pointed to the close links between the CAP and food aid and stated its intention of returning to the matter in the detailed Opinion it was shortly to give on the food aid issue as a whole.

Another important Opinion was that on the generalized scheme of tariff preferences (GSP) to be granted by the Community to imports from the developing countries after 1980, when the first decade of application came to an end.

The Committee thought that the scheme, which allows products from the developing countries to have privileged access to the Community market, helped the development of international trade and North-South relations, and should therefore be continued beyond 1980.

The Commission wanted the new GSP to run for 20 years. But in its Opinion, adopted on 29 April, the Committee came out in favour of a 10-year extension, during which the GSP would be reviewed regularly in the light of the rapid changes taking place in the world economy and after consulting economic and social interest groups.

In addition, the Committee felt that it was essential to exercise greater selectivity in the choice of beneficiary countries. Some developing countries had now reached a stage where they could face up to international competition without privileges. But most of them needed the GSP to ensure they developed.

Although the Community should keep the GSP autonomous, i.e. not subject to negotiation, this did not mean that it should not seek some degree of reciprocity, the Committee said.

It was difficult, for example, to defend arrangements whereby shoes or textiles from the more advanced developing countries could enter the Community under privileged conditions while these same countries closed their doors to Community imports. It also seemed fair to let the GSP cover only products which were not made and sold under abnormal competitive conditions (export subsidies, restrictions on raw material exports, etc.).

The Committee pointed out that the GSP had to be considered an integral part of the Community's development policy. Its aim therefore should not be to encourage the beneficiary countries to create industrial enclaves geared to exports and having no effect on the national standard of living; it had to help developing countries to

achieve economic independence by boosting food production and thus make self-sufficiency in food easier to attain.

Although the GSP had so far not caused any serious disruption of Community markets, the Committee felt that, to prevent any imbalances occurring in the future, the EEC's external policies (concerning trade, development cooperation and the GSP) had to be coordinated more closely with domestic policies (concerning the regions, social matters, industry, agriculture) to allow industries and regions affected by the GSP to adjust.

In another Opinion on the Commission's Proposal for the 1981 GSP, the Committee regretted that the Commission had taken practically no account at all of the comments made in its earlier Opinion. However, the Council agreed later with the Committee that Basmati rice should not be included in the scheme.

In July, the Committee issued a special Opinion on labour standards in international trade and cooperation.

In the Committee's view, the main aim of any development cooperation policy had to be to contribute towards economic and social progress in the developing countries. It therefore urged the European Economic Community to propose the conclusion of a 'social agreement' to all countries with whom it had or might enter into cooperation arrangements.

In view of the failure of previous attempts to insert minimum labour standards into agreements governing relations between the Community and the developing countries, the Committee adopted a completely new approach.

The Committee felt that cooperation between the industrialized and developing countries ought to cover all aspects of development (social, cultural, economic, etc.) and should pave the way for the structural changes required to fulfil the needs of the population and to create as many jobs as possible. The Committee warned against using minimum labour standards for protectionist ends.

The Committee recommended that there should be a levelling-up of the social situations of the developing countries and that the industrialized nations should make the necessary adjustments to cope with the industrialization of the Third World. Minimum labour standards conducive to working conditions where justice, freedom and human dignity were respected had to be defined and implemented, although without infringing national sovereignty.

The Committee felt that a '*social agreement*' was the most appropriate way of achieving the proposed objectives. The contracting parties should give undertakings on the following issues:

- Ratification of ILO conventions on equitable working standards conducive to social protection (conventions on trade-union and collective bargaining rights, non-discrimination in employment, restrictions on child labour, etc.);
- Behaviour of companies investing in developing countries. Such companies would have to undertake (a) to comply with the tripartite declaration of principle on multinationals and social policy, particularly the sections on the promotion of

full employment and job security and on the consultation of workers, (b) to guarantee proper working, health and safety conditions and (c) not to downgrade the environment or living conditions;

- Workers from developing countries to enjoy the same rights as EEC nationals when working in the Community (this clause was already contained in the second Lomé Convention);
- Cooperation on technical aid and staff training in environmental protection and the improvement of working conditions.

In conjunction with the ILO and in the light of consultations with the social and economic interest groups, the parties to development cooperation agreements would consider cases of non-compliance with ILO standards and commitments arising from the 'social agreement', and would draw the appropriate conclusions, bearing in mind the level of development of the countries concerned.

Aid policy and the benefits granted to LDCs could be modified if it were established beyond doubt that they had violated labour and trade union rights or commitments under the 'social agreement'.

In an Opinion on the protection of investment the Committee shared the concern of the Commission at the drop in European investments in developing countries. The Committee analysed the reasons for this and concluded that the most important factor in many of the less-developed countries was the political situation which created an unfavourable investment climate.

Though aware that the political risks facing investors in the less-developed countries could be attributed to the economic plight of the LDCs, their very low living standards and their recent emergence as independent nations, the Committee nevertheless felt that Community action could be taken on two fronts.

First of all the Community had a role to play in the extension of bilateral investment protection agreements concluded by Member States with a number of less-developed countries since the 1960s. These agreements laid down codes of practice for the parties involved in investments carried out in accordance with local law. If such codes of practice were to become widespread, they could pave the way for international legislation, particularly on arbitration.

Secondly, in the event of investment protection agreements being unable to provide guarantees against certain 'accidents', the Committee urged for an expansion of investment guarantee schemes. The Committee pointed out that here too the drawback arising out of existing disparities - and indeed the absence of any guarantees in some Member States - were evidently greater (and generally insurmountable) for small and medium-sized firms than for multinationals, which were able to benefit from the most favourable system because they had establishments in many countries.

The Committee also pointed out that recent Commission action on the matter should not be confined to the mining sector but should be extended to other fields and especially on-the-spot processing of local resources.

Finally, the Committee was adamant that investors had to respect the principles contained in the Tripartite Declaration of the ILO of 16 December 1977 and in the earlier Opinions issued by the Economic and Social Committee in particular as regards non-discrimination between workers, trade-union freedom and the right of employers and workers to negotiate and conclude joint agreements, safety at the workplace, vocational training, etc.

Conference on Enlargement

On 26 and 27 June 1980, the Committee held an important conference on the enlargement of the Community. The conference - the first of its kind - was attended by leaders of the major socio-economic organizations from the Nine, Greece, Spain and Portugal, the President-in-Office of the Council, Mr Zamberletti, and Mr Spaak, Commission Director-General in charge of the accession negotiations. The conference, in which 140 people took part, used as its raw material the Committee's previous work, especially its Opinion of 28 June 1979 on the enlargement of the Community.

The conference sought to explore the various facets of the difficulties thrown up by enlargement. Participants worked together to find how Community policies can develop along lines which will help eradicate regional, economic and social imbalances.

A wide-ranging debate took place on the problems underlying enlargement, including the development of the Community, strengthening the institutions, agriculture, social policy, employment, free movement of workers, industrial policy and regional policy and the implications for Community external relations, particularly *vis-à-vis* certain non-member Mediterranean countries.

9. ENERGY POLICY

This period was notable for the completion of the Committee's study on organization and management of Community research and development. The document consists of an examination of the way in which Community R&D is organized, plus an in-depth analysis of the organization of public sector R&D in each of the Member States.

The Committee stresses the grouping of Community R&D programmes as part of a multiannual indicative projection, especially in view of the increased emphasis on research planning in the Member States. This multiannual projection could be updated regularly according to the 'rolling plan' technique, and could be examined by the principal advisory bodies (European Parliament, ESC, CREST, etc.).

As regards the current structure of R&D in the Community organizations, the study regrets the fact that at present there is a certain lack of coordination among the Commission's structures, in that there are three different Directorates-General all primarily involved in the broad field of science and technology. The Committee advocates a simplification of administrative structures. At the same time it recommends that the advisory bodies should not just represent Member State

governments but also research organizations, workers, academic circles, user industries, etc.

Because of its position at the end of the decision-making chain the Committee finds it very difficult materially to influence the direction of Community R&D. This could be overcome, the Committee thinks, by 'moving the ESC upstream in policy formation'.

The study has already aroused great interest among scientific and technical institutions, government organizations and researchers, and some of its comments, conclusions and recommendations have been echoed in other Community documents.

The Committee also gave Opinions on a series of R&D programmes thus confirming its determination to be effectively involved in the ongoing work of the Community in the field of research and development.

One important opinion concerned the biomolecular engineering programme. The Committee felt that it was essential that Europe should not fall behind the USA and Japan in the development of biomolecular technology used for the improvement of certain industrial techniques and for the protection of the environment. The Committee did stress the importance of an accompanying research programme to consider all possible research and application risks in each of the six projects included in the Commission's proposal.

The thermonuclear fusion programme, another subject on which the Committee gave its opinion, is closely related to the Community's agreed policy to reduce its dependence on imported oil as a main source of energy. The construction phase of the JET device is well advanced but inflation has been running at a higher level than was anticipated in 1979. The ESC's Opinion stressed the importance of the project as part of an overall long-term energy strategy that should not be held up for want of funds, and agreed to the Commission's proposals to revise the budgetary estimates upwards.

The Committee also examined the research and development programme in the field of uranium exploration and extraction inside the Community. The programme envisaged both exploration of new prospecting areas and development of exploration techniques as well as support for research into new extraction methods. The Committee gave its support to the Commission proposal but stressed the aspects of safety and environmental protection, as well as the need to inform the general public about the objectives of programmes of this kind.

Finally, the scientific and technical information programme was subject to a Committee Opinion. This is the third programme of its kind and is directed towards the establishment of Euronet as a public network by 1983. The purpose of the programme is to finance the initial deficit, develop connections with other networks, ensure standardization and common facilities for users, and develop the market generally in an area where Europe risks falling behind in comparison with other industrial countries. The Committee, stressing the importance of scientific and technical information as the basis for technological advance in Europe, indicated several priority areas for the Commission, particularly with regard to standardization, marketing and price policy. The Committee also referred to the need to develop procedures to guard against the misuse of information made available

via networks of this kind. It is worthy of note that of the nine recommendations of the Committee Opinions on the second programme, seven had been implemented by the Commission by October 1980 and the remaining two were in process of being implemented.

Energy problems continue to occupy a prominent place in the economic and political life of Europe and the Committee has been concerned in two Opinions concerning energy. One of these concerned the application of standards applicable to heat generators in non-industrial buildings and was largely of a technical nature.

The other Opinion concerned the new lines of action by the European Community in the field of energy saving. The Committee regretted that the worsening energy crisis had led to a falling-off in Community solidarity and to a deterioration in the economic situation of a large number of developing countries. At the same time the Western industrialized countries had been unable to arrive at a coordinated energy policy. The Committee questioned the usefulness of the correlation purported to exist between energy consumption and economic growth, and urged that better data and more careful methodology should be developed before too many arbitrary conclusions were drawn. It also questioned some of the objectives set by the Commission particularly that of reducing the correlation between economic growth and energy consumption from 1.0 to 0.7 before 1990, especially if this could not be accompanied by precise targets and areas for each Member State. The Opinion also drew attention to possible conflicts between energy saving and other policies such as increased employment, reduction of inflation, and to the need to coordinate Member States' energy-saving programmes if they were not to have unintended consequences by way of shifting competitive advantages. It felt that even if pricing policy was decided at national level, the Commission still had a role to play in comparing the effectiveness of measures adopted and encouraging Member States to make pricing policies as transparent as possible. The Opinion concluded by supporting the Commission's 'Outline of a basic programme for saving energy, recommended to every Member State of the European Community', and stressed the need for a Community energy policy based on Community solidarity and with energy saving as one of its main elements.

10. PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT – PUBLIC HEALTH – CONSUMPTION

Environment policy

It is the view of the Committee that Community and – more especially – international action is required to protect migratory species of wild life.

This is why the Committee welcomed the Commission's decision to draw the Community's attention to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. Similarly, the Committee gave its approval to the proposal for a Regulation on imports of whale products, which it thought would help to protect this endangered species.

In both cases the Committee stressed the need for international cooperation to ensure that the earth's wildlife resources were preserved for future generations.

The creation of an environment fund, which would contribute towards the implementation and monitoring of the measures adopted under the Community's environmental protection programme, was also considered advisable by the Committee.

Nevertheless, the Commission's proposals for the protection of whales were regarded by the Committee as not being all that effective, and it was hoped that a moratorium on whaling would be sought by the Community even though this had been rejected by the International Whaling Commission at its Brighton meeting.

The Committee also approved the Commission's move to secure adoption by the Community of the proposals of the *International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine* concerning Annex IV to the Convention on Protection of the Rhine against Chemical Pollution.

The Committee approved the limit values for discharges of mercury by the chlor-alkali electrolysis industry, at the same time stating that it would like the International Commission to deal in future with mercury pollution of the Rhine from other sources as well, such as mercury discharges from laboratories, dental surgeries and the electrical equipment industry. The submission of an environmental research and development programme gave the Committee an opportunity to stress that Community funds invested in research would not be fully effective unless sufficient money was spent on disseminating the findings among the bodies concerned and the general public.

The Committee took the view that this programme should cover certain disciplines coming under both climatology and environmental protection, such as hydrology, important as regards agriculture, hydro-electric power and drinking water supplies.

In an Opinion on the two proposals relating to pesticide residues, the Committee welcomed the Commission's choice of total harmonization. Total harmonization was considered by the Committee to be the most effective way of protecting the *environment and consumers*.

The Committee pressed for the rapid adoption of the two proposals so that existing laws in five Member States could be harmonized and new legislation could be introduced in the other four.

It was noted by the Committee that in fixing maximum levels for pesticide residues the Commission had taken into account both the toxicological tolerances of humans and normal agricultural practice. The Committee therefore considered temporary national measures to be justifiable if they were based on the latest scientific and technological findings.

In its Opinion on restrictions on the marketing and use of asbestos fibres, the Committee stressed the need for an intensification of the public authorities' and industry's efforts to develop new technologies designed to eliminate or minimize the release of asbestos fibres in production, processing and use.

At the same time, research aimed at finding and introducing non-hazardous or less hazardous substitutes for asbestos had to be continued and speeded up, and the same applied to research designed to improve our knowledge of the

physiopathological effects of the substitutes already on the market. This would encourage the introduction of asbestos substitutes in all cases where it was impossible to use technologies which eliminated the hazards.

The Committee also adopted an Opinion on the proposal banning benzene in toys.

The Committee noted that the problem of the hazards posed by benzene had been tackled in a more comprehensive manner at international level and in certain Member States. It asked the Commission to review this problem as soon as possible, bearing in mind the arrangements already worked out for vinyl chloride monomer and asbestos.

Consumer policy

The Committee's work in this sector centered on a number of proposals which come under the preliminary programme for consumer information and protection.

For example, the Committee delivered an Opinion on consumer credit which stressed the considerable importance of this facility in present-day society and its exceptional growth over the last twenty years in terms of both volume and new forms of credit.

After having pointed out that the rapid expansion of consumer credit had enabled consumers to buy new goods and services and in so doing improve their standard of living, the Committee endorsed the proposals to protect consumers from getting too far into debt and to preserve fairness between the parties to consumer credit agreements.

The Committee, being aware of the importance of allowing the consumer to make a fully informed choice and of thereby permitting unhampered competition, stressed the need for consumers to be notified of the terms on which they were offered credit.

It also observed that the proposal did not touch on the problems of: free access to credit and the corollary of a ban on discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, marital status or nationality; data banks and measures to ensure privacy; and the ability to suspend payments in the event of the consumer getting into social difficulties. The Committee keenly awaited the outcome of work conducted by the Commission in these areas.

In addition, the Committee regretted that there was no provision for a cooling-off period. It was aware that the introduction of such a provision was fraught with difficulties and transcended the sphere of consumer credit, but it asked the Commission to look further into the matter and make proposals in due course.

Finally, the Committee would have preferred a firmer approach to have been taken in places, though it approved the ban on bills of exchange and promissory notes, the rules on canvassing, retention of title and early payment, and the supervisory measures to be carried out by the Member States.

The Committee further endorsed the introduction of a Community system for the rapid exchange of information on dangers arising from the use of consumer products.

It was thought that the proposed system would protect consumers in the face of immediate and acute dangers, and would also protect manufacturers against widespread claims for compensation under legislation on product liability.

With regard to the system's implementation, the Committee raised a number of queries about the administrative machinery and the possibility of national organizations of non-EEC countries being linked to the system.

The Committee approved the Commission's proposals concerning information on the energy consumption of washing machines, dishwashers and refrigerators. It pointed out, however, that the procedure for adaptation to technical progress should be used only where it was a question of technical adjustments. In other cases involving new applications, such as the introduction of Directives relating to the provision of information about appliances' water consumption or noise levels, the Committee should be consulted.

The Committee emphasized the importance of having uniform methods for measuring household appliances' efficiency and expressed the hope that consumers would be involved in the harmonization work of the standardization bodies.

As regards the proposals for Directives concerning preservatives and antioxidants for use in foodstuffs, the Committee took the view that the list of approved substances should be amplified by adding the maximum permissible quantities and areas of use.

Health protection

In an own-initiative Opinion on the use of drugs and its effects on public health, the Committee recognized that drug abuse encompassed both drugs sold on prescription (where the social security generally refunded the cost) and drugs purchased over the counter, for self-medication.

It was not unthinkable that doctors might over-prescribe in order to comply with the wishes of their patients, cover themselves against possible risks and complications, save time or cover the possibility of a faulty diagnosis.

After having raised the question of the information and training received by doctors and the role of the pharmacist towards patients and doctors, the Committee underlined the need for comparable statistics on drug consumption so that a deeper insight into drug-taking was more readily obtainable and so that information could be passed between Member States more easily and Community-wide alignment could progress further.

Self-medication was considered by the Committee to be a field where advertising played an important role, and it was thought that the content of such advertisements

had to be regulated and vetted just as strictly as the registration of proprietary products.

The Community was also called on to take steps to protect drug-users. In particular, it was necessary to monitor the effectiveness, safety and pharmaceutical quality of drugs, the information given on packaging and instruction leaflets and the advertising aimed at doctors and consumers.

It was further recommended that preventive medicine should be given a boost and everybody, from school onwards, should be taught how to lead a healthier life. Studies should also be made of the vast price differences for drugs in the Member States and of how the barriers hampering the development of certain types of pharmacies (e. g. pharmacies run by cooperatives, health insurance funds or social security schemes) could be dismantled.

The Committee similarly endorsed the proposal for a Council Directive laying down basic measures for the radiation protection of persons undergoing medical examinations or treatment. These measures were considered to be very important for public health.

It was thought that there might be a substantial reduction in unnecessary exposures to radiation if doctors and technicians received suitable initial and in-service training and if information about radiological examinations undergone previously by patients was passed on.

The Committee also emphasized the problem of mass radiological examinations carried out as a preventive measure and examinations undergone at the request of insurance companies. In both of these cases it was considered vital for the examinations to be authorized by a doctor or another competent body.

The Committee considered it necessary to compile an inventory of all radiological installations in order to check that they complied with radiation protection standards.

Still in the field of health protection, the Committee endorsed proposals for restricting the marketing and use of certain substances and dangerous preparations such as polychlorinated terphenyls, and proposals governing the use of colouring matter in drugs and food.

As regards the use of colouring matter in food, the Committee pointed out that the Scientific Committee for Food, which had been responsible for having an additive put on the list of approved substances, should update its Opinions in the light of the latest scientific findings.

The Committee continued its work on recombinant DNA, entrusting the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs with the preparation of a study on the subject. This study attempts to give a clear and comprehensive picture of the complex scientific context of genetic engineering.

The study was mainly concerned with the whole process of producing recombined molecules of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), inserting them in a host and getting them to multiply, including all work with host organisms containing recombinant DNA. In particular the section examined the risks involved in genetic engineering which

could range from contamination of the researcher and other persons engaged in the work to a life-threatening change in the environment, and the safety measures needed to exclude such risks when they were considered to be probable. It had to be borne in mind that only about 10% of the work carried out so far entailed such a high degree of risk.

In view of the numerous complex questions that had remained unanswered, the Committee reserved the right to organize (in collaboration with the Commission and the European Parliament) a hearing of experts from the worlds of science, health, agriculture and industry, the trade unions and public interest groups, so that the Council could take account of the findings in making its final decision.

The Committee approved the draft Council recommendation concerning the registration of recombinant DNA work, while expressing its preference for a Directive, which it thought would have been the most suitable instrument for bringing about a genuine harmonization of national laws.

Although no short-term dangers had been detected in recombinant DNA work, serious consequences could still be discovered in the longer term.

Press relations and outside echo

As far as the press is concerned, interest in the European Community has lessened considerably in 1980 compared to 1979, the year which witnessed direct elections to Parliament. In addition, as the economic pressures of the world recession make themselves felt, popular opinion and the popular press become more nationalistic and less European in outlook.

The difficult period which the European Community is now undergoing has had its effects on the Economic and Social Committee and on the attention it has been given in the press. Though efforts have been multiplied to obtain a better press echo, the overall effect has been to keep up the high level of last year's results which had shown a spectacular rise in the number of press clippings, radio broadcasts and TV coverage received or noted.

The best press echo was achieved in Belgium, followed by France, Italy, the United Kingdom, the German Federal Republic and Ireland. Results in Denmark, Luxembourg and the Netherlands continue to be disappointing.

The two special events organized by the Economic and Social Committee in the course of the year, namely the Conference on the Community's Enlargement and the Symposium on Construction and Growth, were extremely successful in focusing press attention. The first of these was also widely reported, as could be expected, by the media in Greece, Spain and Portugal.

The policy of organizing press conferences in the members' own countries about opinions in which they acted as rapporteur, or with which they were closely connected, was again widely applied in the year under review and contributed to publicizing the Committee's recommendations. Notably among these were the press conferences given by Mr Bornard in Paris about Lorraine, by Mr Hall in Belfast on regional development plans, by Vice-Chairman Renaud and Mr Hatry in Paris on the objectives of an energy policy and a press lunch given by Ms Strobel and other German members in Munich on the management of R&D.

The meetings of the Regional Development Section in Newcastle and of the Section for the Protection of the Environment, of Public Health and Consumer Affairs in

London and of a study group in Brest were well reported, as was the Bureau meeting in Venice in April, which in a way, prepared the lagoon city for the European Summit in June.

A major factor for arousing interest in the press is the visit of the Committee's Chairman to a Member State. This was again proven by Mr Vanni's visits to Rome, to London and to Athens, and Mr Roseingrave's visit to Luxembourg, all of which received a good echo in the press and radio. The same effect is also true for a change of Chairman which was widely reported.

In addition to the publicity given to the Opinions mentioned earlier, good coverage was obtained for those on involving local authorities in regional development planning, on maximum weights for road vehicles, on air transport, on agricultural prices and agricultural structures, on the use of medicaments and on the system of generalized preferences.

Although the pressure of visitors was not quite as high as in the year of direct elections to the European Parliament, the numbers received at the Committee or who heard Committee lecturers remains at the 5000 level. Groups totalled 161 and included many personalities that act as multipliers of information and as opinion-formers. Broken up country-wise, the largest contingent came from the FR of Germany, closely followed by the UK, then France, Belgium, Ireland and Denmark. Few came from Italy and Denmark, none from Luxembourg. On the other hand, we had visitors not only from Greece and Spain, but also from Turkey, the United States, Finland, Egypt, Austria, Japan, Israel, Ghana and the West Indies. Committee members frequently told meetings in their own countries about the Committee's activities.

The visiting groups comprised farmers, journalists, members of parliament, civil servants, managers, professors, students, chambers of commerce, local government officials and lawyers.

The publications issued in 1980 included the Annual Report 1979, the report on the Conference on Enlargement (in 9 languages), the report on the management of R&D, a new edition of the brochure on the Committee (in colour), the Directory 1980, a new edition of the leaflet on the Committee (in 8 languages), and reports on financial instruments of the Community, European interest groups and Community advisory committees.

It can be said in conclusion that the press echo of the Committee has been maintained at a reasonable level in a world where interest in the Community has been declining. A large measure of this success is due to the increasing amount of publicity given to the Committee by the members themselves.

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 the 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 direction of its Chairman, Mr H.W. Staratzke, and two Vice-Chairmen, Mr L. Bernaert and Mr A. Masprone, now has 43 members.

At the mid-term elections in October the Chairmanship of the Group was confirmed for the next two years. The seven employer members on the Bureau of the Committee were elected as follows: Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr Miller (UK), Mr Ammundsen (DK), Mr de Bievre (B), Mr Blasig (D), Mr Loughrey (IRL), Mr Masprone (I), Mr Renaud (F). All three Section Chairmen were re-elected, namely: Mr Hatry, Energy and Nuclear Questions, Mr van Campen, Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, and Mr de Precigout, External Relations.

A large number of Opinions has been drafted by Group I rapporteurs, some of the most important among them being the Annual Economic Report 1980-81, generalized tariff preferences 1981-90, protection of investments in developing countries, the management of Community R&D, the development of air transport services, support for transport infrastructure projects, major accident risks, fisheries policy, and a range of subjects concerning the elimination of technical barriers to trade.

Group I has laid stress on the importance of implementing Community measures to improve competitiveness and increase investment. In this connection it is felt that the rules of competition should be re-examined in order to permit greater freedom for joint industrial research and innovation which could in turn play a part in reducing unemployment. The need to complete the elimination of customs barriers both within the Community and with third countries has also been emphasized on numerous occasions.

During the past year there has been a considerable widening and strengthening of Group I cooperation with industrial and professional organization at European level and also with the representatives of employers federations in Greece, Spain and Portugal.

At a working meeting with the Presidents and Secretaries-General of UNICE (Union of Industries of the EC), CEEP (European Centre for Public Enterprises) and the Permanent Conference of Chambers of Commerce it was agreed that there should be similar informal discussions on important topics several times a year. All concerned hope that it will be possible for European representatives of wholesale and retail trade to join this forum in the near future.

Relations with the directly-elected European Parliament have been evolving steadily over the last months and the Group is generally satisfied with the way in which cooperation between ESC sections and the analogous Parliamentary Committees is developing.

GROUP II – WORKERS

The Workers Group has currently 50 members drawn from the trade unions in the EEC Member States.

After the last change-over in October 1980, the following Group II members were elected to the Committee Bureau:

Mr Laval (Committee Vice-Chairman - FO - France)
Mr Friedrichs (DGB - FR of Germany)
Mr Delourme (FGTB - Belgium)
Mr Christensen (LO - Denmark)
Mr Vanni (UIL - Italy)
Mr van Greunsven (NKV - FNV - Netherlands)
Mr Walsh (TUC - UK)

Mr Debunne (FGTB - Belgium) was re-elected Group Chairman while Mr Vanni (UIL - Italy) and Mr Pfeiffer (DGB - Germany) were appointed Vice-Chairmen.

Group II members also chair the following Sections:

Mr Houthuys (CSC - Belgium) : Social Affairs
Mr Milne (TUC - UK) : Regional Development
Mrs Weber (DGB - FR of Germany) : Transport

Group II members acted as rapporteur for the following topics of particular interest to the trade-union movement:

- social situation;
- economic situation;
- Social Fund aid for the textile and shipbuilding industries;
- telematics;
- international labour standards;
- income tax in connection with free movement of workers;
- streamlining of the textile industry;
- multinationals (information and consultation of workers);
- coordination of employment instruments.

In several plenary sessions, Opinions and in the presence of leading European figures, Group II emphasized:

- international monetary disorder, inflation, growth rates;
- the threat to democracy from unemployment;
- work-sharing;
- preservation of social progress and purchasing power.

Group II was also successful in attaining certain objectives, for example:

- minority statements;
- right of initiative;
- improved relations with the Community institutions;
- better implementation of internal working methods (lightening the workload);
- simplified working methods.

A compromise was reached on alternates confining their activity to study groups.

During a special meeting in December, Group II drew up a balance-sheet of targets to be pursued in the next few years and dealt with internal operational problems.

In view of the enlargement of the EEC, Group II was able to welcome a representative of the Greek trade unions at this special meeting.

GROUP III – VARIOUS INTERESTS

This Group of 51 members represents interests other than those of employers and organized labour. It is made up of farmers, self-employed craftsmen and traders, heads of smaller firms, professional people, executive staff and representatives of

consumers and family associations. Some members are appointed to represent the general interest.

During the year, which was marked by the reform of the Rules of Procedure, Group III played a leading, and in many respects decisive, role thanks to the open-mindedness of its members and its dynamic leadership.

But the Group also played a conciliatory role, as shown by the large number of Group III members chosen by the Sections to be rapporteurs. The second Lomé Convention, consumer credit, recombinant DNA research, medium-term policy, insurance, energy objectives for 1990 and regional policy were only some of the many Opinions drawn up by Group III members. In many cases, Group members were chosen as rapporteurs because of their expert knowledge in such fields as agriculture, energy, consumer affairs and the environment, or general economics.

The Group strengthened considerably its position within the Committee when the topics mentioned above were dealt with by proving itself to be a vital partner and, often, a go-between in relations between the employers' and trade unionists' Groups.

The Group declared itself to be wholeheartedly in favour of a real improvement in working procedures with a view to strengthening the Committee's position as a 'natural forum for a dialogue between economic and social interest groups and the Community institutions, since it is here that a synthesis of their opinions and aspirations is realized'.¹

As far as the major issues debated by the Committee were concerned, the Group underlined the responsibility of man both as a producer and as an individual or social consumer group when making economic choices in the present situation of crisis. It stated quite clearly that 'leaving behind the dialectical simplifications of the industrial age, Group III shares the fundamental concerns of the present day as to the kind of growth that will guarantee the wellbeing of man while respecting the resources of nature'.¹

At the end of October, the Group elected Mrs Käte Strobel as its new Chairman and Messrs De Bruyn and Morselli as Vice-Chairmen.

¹ Extract from the speech of the Group Chairman on the occasion of the visit by the President of the European Parliament, Mrs Simone Veil, to the Economic and Social Committee on 3 July 1980.

Attendance at conferences

In 1980, as in past years, the Committee maintained contact with representative bodies in Europe by sending delegates, wherever possible, to the various conferences, etc. to which it was invited. The meetings attended by Committee representatives were as follows:

- Joint meeting of the European Council of Chemical Industry Federations (CEFIC) and the Commission of the EC of Brussels 24 and 25 January in The Hague
- General Assembly of the CEFIC 21 February in Brussels
- General Assembly of the European Secretariat of the Liberal, Learned and Social Professions (SEPLIS) 21 February in Brussels
- 32nd International Craft Industries Fair 8 March in Munich
- 34th Congress of the French National Federation of Farmers' Unions 11 to 13 March in Bordeaux
- 10th Statutory Congress of the Union of European Federalists 14 March in Strasbourg
- International conference organized by the Free University of Berlin on the aims, contents and institutionalization of studies of women's affairs and the improvement of the situation of women 16 to 18 April in Berlin
- Conference organized by the Belgo-Italian Chamber of Commerce on the prospects offered to investors by the EEC 15 April in Brussels

- Seminar organized by the Association for the Study and Development of the Massif Vosgien 27 April in Colmar (France)
- 62nd Congress of the National Confederation of Farmers' Mutuals, Cooperatives and Credit Institutions on the theme of food policy and agricultural policy 6 to 8 May in Marseilles
- European Congress of the European Movement 9 May in Paris
- Seminar arranged by the Comprensorio dei Comuni della Laguna e dell' entroterra di Venezia on the development of the non-ferrous metal industry at Marghera 10 May in Venice
- Seminars organized by the European Bureau of Consumers' Unions on the problems caused for consumers by the energy policy 12 and 13 May in Paris
- Meetings between representatives of the EEC and ACP countries organized by the Marseilles Chamber of Trade and Industry and the City of Marseilles 21 to 23 May in Marseilles
- Seminar on the participation of workers in asset formation organized by the Planned Sharing Research Association of Dublin 22 May in Dublin
- 4th General Assembly of the European Federation of Metal Workers in the Community on the theme of collective bargaining policy in the new economic era 30 and 31 May in Copenhagen
- 13th International Congress of the public, social and cooperative sector on the theme of public, social and cooperative enterprises: Autonomy-inspections-participation 2 to 4 June in Lisbon
- Seminar organized by the European Circle of the Belgian province of Luxembourg (Neufchâteau) 4 June in Libramont (Belgium)
- National day of the Standing Assembly of Chambers of Agriculture 5 June in Paris
- 15th Plenary Session of the Council of Europe 10 to 12 June in Strasbourg
- International seminar organized by the Circolo europeo on the rules governing the right to strike in the Member States of the EC 13 and 14 June in Rome
- 14th National Congress of Force Ouvrière 17 to 20 June in Bordeaux

- Annual meeting of the Bundesverband der Deutschen Industrie (BDI) (Cologne) 19 and 20 June in Mainz
- General Assembly of the European Secretariat of the Liberal, Learned and Social Professions (SEPLIS) 26 June in Brussels
- TUC Congress 1 to 5 September in Brighton
- European seminar organized by the National Committee for Preventive Medicine (Neuilly) 1 and 2 October in Strasbourg
- Congress of the Union of European and International Public Service Unions 3 to 5 October in Brussels
- General Assembly of the Pharmaceutical Group of the EC 5 to 8 October in Montreux (Switzerland)
- International seminar organized by the European League for Economic Cooperation on a common energy policy 10 October in Paris
- 2nd Congress of the Centre for Research and Studies into Administration and Public Finance on the theme of EC economic aid to deprived areas, particularly in the south of Italy, EC and national guarantee and monitoring instruments 10 to 12 October in Naples
- Meeting of European Consumers 15 to 17 October in Paris
- Conference on employment policy organized by the German Trade-Union Confederation (DGB) 21 and 22 October in Düsseldorf
- Second European Congress of Chartered Accountants organized by the European Fiscal Confederation of Chartered Accountants (CFE) on the subject of taxation in Europe 6 to 8 November in Rome
- National Conference of the CBI 9 to 11 November in London
- Seminar on the paid day-release system in vocational training organized by the Economic and Social Academy 12 and 13 November in Bremen
- Seminar organized by the Royal Belgian Academy of Arts and Sciences on Belgium and Europe 12 to 14 November in Brussels and Gent

- Congress of the Association of Frontier Workers of Ain and Haute-Savoie 16 November in Bellegrade (near Geneva)
- Symposium arranged by the European Trade Union Confederation on industrial medicine in Europe 26 to 28 November in Paris
- Congress of the European Municipalities and Regions on the theme of a motor-vehicle policy for the Community 28 and 29 November in Turin
- Meeting organized by the Provincial Association of Padua, which is affiliated to the Italian General Confederation of Craft Industries, to mark the 35th anniversary of its establishment 14 December in Padua

New Committee Bureau

At its 182nd Plenary Session held on 29 - 30 October 1980, the Committee elected a new Bureau for the second half of its sixth four-year term.

Mr Tomás Roseingrave was elected to the post of Chairman, the two Vice-Chairmen posts went to Mr Laval and Mr Miller and the other seats on the Bureau were filled by

Mr Ammundsen	Mr Christensen	Mr Berns
Mr Blasig	Mr Delourme	Mr Doble
Mr De Bievre	Mr Friedrichs	Mr Hennig
Mr Loughrey	Mr van Greunsven	Mr Hilkens
Mr Masprone	Mr Vanni	Mr Laur
Mr Renaud		Mr Piga

When Greece becomes a member of the Community, the number of seats on the Bureau will be increased to 24.

Appointments and resignations¹

During the period covered by this Report, Mr Boulnois, Mr Ceconi, Mr Nyrup Rasmussen, Mr Fassina, Mr Hipp, Mr MacGougan, Mr Hoffmann, Mr Hubregtse and Mr Guillaume resigned as members of the Committee, to be replaced by the following Council appointments:

Mr Daul
Mr Benigni
Mr Christensen
Mr Beretta
Mr Broicher
Mr Drain

¹ A complete list of Committee members can be obtained from the General Secretariat of the ESC.

**Mr Scharrenbroich
Mr Wagenmans
Mr Lauga**

In addition, Mr Loccufier was appointed to replace Mr De Ridder, who died in office. Mr Croese, Mr Gormley and Mr Walsh have also resigned from the Committee, but their replacements have not yet been appointed by the Council.

Internal affairs of the General Secretariat

1. STAFF

The General Secretariat had 334 permanent posts as well as 5 temporary posts for Greek nationals.

As in previous years, the General Secretariat had to make use of a limited number of auxiliary and local staff.

A large number of Secretariat staff attended basic and advanced training courses.

2. BUDGET

Appropriations for the financial year 1980 amounted to 19 910 010 EUA (1 EUA = BF 39.5592); the increase compared with the 1979 budget of 16 599 400 EUA (1 EUA = 40.1924 BF) was 19.94%.

This rise in the volume of appropriations was due largely to the enlargement of the Community and the considerably higher cost of living which 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 sessions were held in the course of the financial year 1980.

A large number of meetings were held by the Committee's various working bodies; the figures were as follows:

Sections	62
Study groups	255
Three Groups	71

Miscellaneous	35
Meetings of sub-groups recognized by the three Groups	99

There were also numerous groups of visitors.

4. STRUCTURE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT (1980)

Chairman

- Private office
- Group secretariats
- Financial control

Secretary-General

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

Directorate A – Consultative work

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

Directorate B – Consultative work

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

Directorate C – Consultative work

- Secretariat of the Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions
- Secretariat of the Section for Agriculture
- Secretariat of the Section for External Relations

General Directorate for Administration, Translation and General Affairs

- Personnel division
- Specialized financial services
- Translation
- Division for document production, coordination and internal affairs

Annex A

**List of Opinions,
studies and information reports
issued during 1980**

175TH PLENARY SESSION ON 30 AND 31 JANUARY 1980

- New lines of action by the European Community in the field of energy saving (Communication from the Commission and a draft Resolution of the Council) (Rapporteur: Mr Romoli) (CES 89/80)
- Interim programme to combat poverty (Rapporteur: Mr Carroll) (CES 84/80)
- Consumer credit (Rapporteur: Mr Ramaekers) (CES 85/80)
- Weights and certain other characteristics (not including dimensions) of road vehicles. (Rapporteur: Mr Bonety) (CES 87/80)
- Rules governing turnover tax and excise duty applicable in international travel (Fifth Directive) (Rapporteur: Mr Marvier) (CES 83/80)
- Own-account carriage of goods (Rapporteur: Mr Hatry) (CES 86/80)
- Colouring matters authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption (Seventh Amendment to the Council's Directive of 23 October 1962) (Rapporteur: Mr De Grave) (CES 88/80)
- Colouring matters which may be added to medicinal products (Amendment to Directive 78/25/EEC) (Rapporteur: Mrs Heuser) (CES 81/80)
- Certain methods for the quantitative analysis of binary textile fibre mixtures (Amendment to Directive 72/276/EEC) (Rapporteur: Mr Leo) (CES 82/80)
- Organization and management of Community R&D (Study) (Rapporteur: Mr Renaud) (CES 91/80)

176TH PLENARY SESSION ON 27 AND 28 FEBRUARY 1980

- Report on some structural aspects of growth (Initiative Opinion) (Rapporteur: Mr Querini) (CES 228/80)
- Reform of the CAP
 - a) Sugar (Rapporteur: Mr Boulnois) (CES 234/80)

- b) Milk
(Rapporteur: Mr Bukman) (CES 235/80)
 - c) Beef and veal
(Rapporteur: Mr Schnieders) (CES 232/80)
 - d) Cereals
(Rapporteur: Mr Schnieders) (CES 231/80)
 - e) Fruit and vegetables
(Rapporteur: Mr Schnieders) (CES 233/80)
 - f) Starch sector
(Rapporteur: Mr Schnieders) (CES 230/80)
- Common organization of the market in wine
(Amendment to Regulation (EEC) No 337/79)
(Rapporteur: Mr Rainero) (CES 229/80)
 - Insurance contracts
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bruyn) (CES 226/80)
 - Taking-up and pursuit of the business of direct insurance other than life insurance
(Amendment to the first Directive 73/239/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bruyn) (CES 227/80)
 - Agricultural cereal substitutes
(Study)
(Rapporteur: Mr Berns) (CES 236/80)

177TH PLENARY SESSION ON 26 AND 27 MARCH 1980

- Fixing of prices for certain agricultural products and on certain related measures
(Rapporteur: Mr Schnieders) (CES 350/80)
- Agricultural conversion rates, monetary compensatory amounts and the conversion rates to be applied for the purposes of the common agricultural policy
(Three Proposals for Regulations)
(Rapporteur: Mr Schnieders) (CES 351/80)
- Major accident hazards of certain industrial activities
(Rapporteur: Mr Blasig) (CES 348/80)
- Restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations
(Fourth Amendment to Directive 76/769/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Hatry) (CES 343/80)
- Rapid exchange of information on dangers arising from the use of consumer products
(Rapporteur: Mr Jaschick) (CES 344/80)

- Fuel consumption and the engine power of motor vehicles
(Two Proposals)
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone) (CES 337/80)
- Rear-view mirrors for two- or three-wheeled motor vehicles
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone) (CES 338/80)
- Determination of the noise emission of construction plant and equipment
(Amendment to Directive 79/113/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier) (CES 341/80)
- Powered industrial trucks
(Rapporteur: Mr Wylie) (CES 347/80)
- Procedures for the award of public supply contracts
(Amendment to Directive 77/62/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bievre) (CES 342/80)
- Right of residence for nationals of Member States in the territory of another Member State
(Rapporteur: Mr Roseingrave) (CES 346/80)
- Special measures for peas and field beans used in the feeding of animals
(Amendment to Regulation (EEC) No 1119/78)
(Rapporteur: Mr Zinkin) (CES 339/80)
- Zootechnical standards applicable to breeding animals of the porcine species
(Rapporteur: Mr Wick) (CES 340/80)
- Fruit juices and certain similar products
(Second Amendment to Directive 75/726/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr De Grave) (CES 349/80)
- Technical requirements for inland waterway vessels
(Rapporteur: Mr Zunkler) (CES 345/80)

178TH PLENARY SESSION ON 29 AND 30 APRIL 1980

- Regional programmes
(Initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Hall) (CES 470/80)
- Use of medicine and its effects on public health
(Initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr De Grave) (CES 466/80)
- Food aid programmes for 1980
(Communication from the Commission)
(Rapporteur: Mr Williams) (CES 467/80)

- Guidelines for the European Community's scheme of generalized tariff preferences for the post-1980 period
(Rapporteur: Mr Evain) (CES 468/80)
- Certification procedure for industrial products originating in third countries
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Evain) (CES 469/80)
- The Lorraine region – A case for an integrated operation
(Study)
(Rapporteur: Mr Bornard) (CES 440/80)

179TH PLENARY SESSION ON 28 AND 29 MAY 1980

- Development of the social situation in 1979
(Rapporteur: Mrs Engelen-Kefer) (CES 549/80)
- Economic situation (mid-1980)
(Rapporteur: Mr Drago) (CES 550/80)
- Report on the European institutions
(Initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Friedrichs) (CES 551080)
- Stores of vessels, aircraft and international trains
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier) (CES 545/80)
- Roll-over protective structures (ROPS) and falling-object protective structures (FOPS)
(Two Proposals for Directives)
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier) (CES 546/80)
- Electrical equipment for use in potentially explosive atmospheres in mines susceptible to fire-damp
(Rapporteur: Mr Pearson) (CES 547/80)

180TH PLENARY SESSION ON 2 AND 3 JULY 1980

- Development of air transport services
(Additional Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Zunkler) (CES 658/80)
- International standards governing working conditions
(Initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Soulat) (CES 667/80)
- Radiation protection of persons undergoing medical examinations or treatment
(Rapporteur: Mr von der Decken) (CES 656/80)

- Research and development in biomolecular engineering (Indirect action 1981-85)
(Rapporteur: Mrs Heuser) (CES 655/80)
- Market in oils and fats and producer groups and associations thereof
(Amendment to Regulation (EEC) No 136/66 and supplementing Regulation
(EEC) No 1360/78)
(Rapporteur: Mr Rainero) (CES 660/80)
- Common organization of the market in wine
(Amendment to Regulation (EEC) No 337/79)
(Rapporteur: Mr Ognibene) (CES 661/80)
- Granting of temporary and permanent abandonment premiums in respect of
certain areas under vines and of premiums for the renunciation of replanting
(Amendment to Regulation (EEC) No 456/80)
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Lauga) (CES 662/80)
- Stimulation of agricultural development in the less-favoured areas of Northern
Ireland
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Hall) (CES 663/80)
- Improvement of the conditions under which agricultural products in the eggs,
poultrymeat, cereals and cattlefeed sectors in Northern Ireland are processed
and marketed
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Hall) (CES 664/80)
- Textile names
(Amendment to Directive 71/307/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Miss Roberts) (CES 666/80)
- Extension of certain derogations granted to Denmark, Ireland and the
United Kingdom in respect of swine fever
(Rapporteur: Mr Wick) (CES 659/80)
- Safety belts and restraining systems of motor vehicles
(Three Proposals) (Amendments to Regulations (EEC) Nos 77/541,
76/115, 74/408)
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone) (CES 651/80)
- Common organization of the market in flax and hemp (Amendment of Regulation
(EEC) No 1308/70) and use of flax fibres for the 1980/81 and 1981/82 marketing
years
(Two Proposals for Regulations)
(Rapporteur: Mr Bernaert) (CES 652/80)
- Grant of a premium for the birth of calves and continuing of the premium for the
slaughter of certain adult bovine animals provided for in Regulation (EEC) No
870/77
(Two Proposals for Regulations)
(Rapporteur: Mr Schnieders) (CES 653/80)
- Amount of aid to hop producers for the 1979 harvest
(Rapporteur: Mr Bernaert) (CES 654/80)

- Methods of testing the biodegradability of non-ionic surfactants
(Amendment to Directive 73/404/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Ramaekers) (CES 657/80)

181ST PLENARY SESSION ON 24 AND 25 SEPTEMBER 1980

- Protection of workers from harmful exposure to metallic lead
(Rapporteur: Mr Blasig) (CES 884/80)
- Support for projects of Community interest in transport infrastructure
(Amendment to Proposal for Regulation)
(Rapporteur: Mr Kenna) (CES 875/80)
- Statistical returns in respect of carriage of goods by inland waterway and statistical returns in respect of carriage of goods by rail
(Two Proposals for Directives)
(Rapporteur: Mr Doble) (CES 876/80)
- Heat generators for space heating and the production of hot water
(Amendment to Directive 78/170/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Mills) (CES 877/80)
- Scientific and technical training (adopting a programme for the European Economic Community)
(Rapporteur: Mr Couture) (CES 878/80)
- Exemption from value-added tax on the final importation of certain goods
(Determining the Scope of Article 14(1) (d) of Directive 77/388/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier) (CES 879/80)
- Imports of whale products
(Rapporteur: Mr Zoli) (CES 880/80)
- Conclusion of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
(Commission Communication and Proposal for Directive)
(Rapporteur: Mrs Clark) (CES 881/80)
- Measures for the control and eradication of classical swine fever
(Three Proposals, Implementation of Directive 80/217/EEC, amendment to Draft Regulation)
(Rapporteur: Mr Wick) (CES 882/80)
- Swine vesicular disease and swine fever
(Amendments to Directives 64/432/EEC, 72/461/EEC and 80/215/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Wick) (CES 883/80)
- Fixing of maximum levels for pesticide residues in and on cereals intended for human consumption and of pesticide residues in and on foodstuffs of animal origin
(Two Proposals for Directives)
(Rapporteur: Mr Piga) (CES 885/80)

182ND PLENARY SESSION ON 29 AND 30 OCTOBER 1980

- Five-year scheme of generalized tariff preferences for period 1981-85
(Rapporteur: Mr Cremer) (CES 1107/80)
- Research and development in the field of paper and board recycling (Indirect action)
(Amendment to Decision 78/384/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone) (CES 1104/80)
- Recovery and re-use of waste paper and board
(Draft Recommendation)
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone) (CES 1105/80)
- Use of the European Social Fund to help persons employed in the textile and clothing industries, migrant workers, persons affected by employment difficulties (young people under 25) and women
(Rapporteur: Mr Laval) (CES 1097/80)
- Income taxation provisions with respect to freedom of movement for workers within the Community
(Rapporteur: Mr Delourme) (CES 1110/80)
- Conclusion of the second ACP-EEC Lomé Convention
(Recommendation for a Regulation)
(Rapporteur: Mr Clavel)(CES 1101/80)
- Food aid
(Communication from the Commission)
(Rapporteur: Mr Williams) (CES 1102/80)
- Restrictions of the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations
(Fifth amendment to Directive 76/769/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Piga) (CES 1106/80)
- Indication by labelling of the energy consumption of household appliances
(Three Proposals for Directives)
(Rapporteur: Mr Bernaert) (CES 1098/80)
- Research and development in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion
(Amendment to Decision 80/318/EURATOM)
(Rapporteur: Mr Friedrichs) (CES 110380)
- Common organization of the market in wine
(Amendment to Regulation (EEC) No 337/79)
(Rapporteur: Mr Rainero) (CES 1099/80)
- Financial aid for the eradication of African swine fever in Sardinia
(Rapporteur: Mr Wick) (CES 1100/80)

183RD PLENARY SESSION ON 19 AND 20 NOVEMBER 1980

- Annual Report on the Economic Situation – 1980-81
(Rapporteur: Mr Zinkin) (CES 1223/80)
- Legal expenses insurance
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bruyn) (1221/80)
- Protection of the Rhine against chemical pollution
(Proposal for Decision and communication)
(Rapporteur: Mr Schneider) (CES 1212/80)
- Structural policy in the fisheries sector
(Rapporteur: Mr Leo) (CES 1220/80)
- Total catch possibilities available, in the Community fishing zone
(Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Leo) (CES 1216/80)
- Preservatives for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption
(Fifteenth Amendment of Directive 64/54/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mrs Gredal) (CES 1213/80)
- Antioxidants authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption
(Third Amendment of Directive 70/357/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mrs Gredal) (CES 1214/80)
- Development of agriculture in the French Overseas Departments
(Rapporteur: Mr De Grave) (CES 1215/80)
- Determination of import duties on mixtures and sets
(Rapporteur: Mr Zinkin) (CES 1217/80)
- Assistance from the European Social Fund to provide income support for workers
in the shipbuilding industry
(Rapporteur: Mr Laval) (CES 1222/80)
- Proprietary medicinal products
(Amendment of Directives 65/65/EEC and 75/319/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bievre) (CES 1225/80)
- Community quota for the carriage of goods by road
(Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 3164/76)
(Rapporteur: Mr Renaud) (CES 1227/80)
- Common organization of the market in sugar
(Rapporteur: Mr Paggi) (CES 11219/80)
- Uranium exploration and extraction (Indirect action 1981-84) (Second programme
of research and development)
(Rapporteur: Mr Nielsen) (CES 1218/80)

- Establishment of a European Regional Development Fund
(Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 724/75)
(Rapporteur: Mr Cremer) (CES 1226/80)

184TH PLENARY SESSION ON 10 AND 11 DECEMBER 1980

- Community accession to the European Convention on Human Rights
(Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Williams) (CES 1355/80)
- European society faced with the challenge of new information technologies
(Rapporteur: Mr Nierhaus) (CES 1357/80)
- Harmonization of taxes on tobacco (8th Directive)
(Amendment of Directive 72/464/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Miller) (CES 1350/80)
- Social security schemes for employed persons and their families moving within
the Community
(Rapporteur: Mr Davies) (CES 1358/80)
- Sectoral research and development programme in the field of the environment
(environmental protection and climatology) (Indirect and concerted actions)
1981-85
(Rapporteur: Mr De Grave) (CES 1345/80)
- Restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and
preparations (Benzene)
(Sixth Amendment of Directive 76/769/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Beretta) (CES 1346/80)
- Introduction of an ECMT licence for international removals
(Rapporteur: Mr Renaud) (CES 1347/80)
- Aid to shipbuilding
(Rapporteur: Mr Laval) (CES 1356/80)
- Extension of the transitional arrangements for the import of New Zealand butter
into the United Kingdom and importation of New Zealand butter into the Com-
munity on special terms
(Two Proposals) (Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 1655/76)
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Berns) (CES 1353/80)
- Adoption of a third plan of action (1981-83) in the field of scientific and technical
information and documentation
(Rapporteur: Mr Zunkler) (CES 1348/80)
- Protection of investment in less-developed countries
(Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Breitenstein) (CES 1354/80)

- European Regional Development Fund (Fifth Annual Report 1979)
(Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Curlis) (CES 1349/80)
- Registration of recombinant DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) work
(Draft Council Recommendation)
(Rapporteur: Mrs Heuser) (CES 1351/80)
- Safety measures against the conjectural risks associated with recombinant DNA
work
(Study)
(Rapporteur: Mrs Heuser) (CES 515/80 fin)
- Interest subsidies on certain loans granted in the context of special Community
aid towards reconstruction of the areas devastated by the earthquake in Italy in
November 1980
(Rapporteur-General: Mrs Strobel)

Annex B

**List of Opinions
drawn up by the
Economic and Social Committee
on its own initiative
(1973-80)**

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

- The economic and social situation of women in the European Community
(Rapporteur: Mrs Evans) February 1976

- Unemployment in the EEC
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Basnett) February 1976

- Regional development in the Community in 1975-77 and establishment of an EEC regional policy
(Rapporteur: Mr Maher) March 1976

- Coordination of national employment policy instruments
(Rapporteur: Mr Laval) March 1976

- Possibilities of developing advanced technology sectors in the EEC through a policy of liberalizing public purchasing
(Rapporteur: Mr de Ferranti) May 1976

- Specific measures to relieve unemployment among the elderly, young people and women returning to gainful employment
(Rapporteur: Mr Carroll) November 1976

- The common agricultural policy in the international context (possible consequences and improvements)
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Berns) January 1977

- How regional development helps solve unemployment and inflation by making for a more balanced distribution of the working population
(Rapporteur: Mr Bornard) March 1977

- The GATT multilateral trade negotiations (additional own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Evain) April 1977

- The implementation and development of the Community's consumer protection and information programme
(Rapporteur: Mr Ramaekers) May 1977

- Transport problems in relations with Eastern bloc countries
(Rapporteur: Mr Hennig) June 1977

- Direct cooperation between the bodies designated by Member States to verify compliance with Community and national provisions in the wine sector
(Rapporteur: Mr Guillaume) June 1977

- Industrial change and employment – A review of the Community's industrial policy and future prospects (Rapporteur: Mr Carstens) September 1977
- European Regional Development Fund – Second Annual Report (1976) (Rapporteur: Mr Loughrey) September 1977
- Small- and medium-sized enterprises in the Community context (Rapporteur: Mr Kolbenschlag) November 1977
- Transport problems in relations with Eastern bloc countries (Additional own-initiative Opinion) (Rapporteur: Mr Hennig) November 1977
- Communication on the amendment of the common organization of the market in beef and veal, report on the merits of premiums and intervention measures in the beef and veal sector (Rapporteur: Mr Schnieders) December 1977
- Community regional policy guidelines (Rapporteur: Mr Laval) January 1978
- Common principles to be adopted in export credit insurance system for medium and long-term transactions with public and private buyers (Rapporteur: Mr Miller) February/March 1978
- Report on starch products in the Community and the starch production refund (Rapporteur: Mr Masprone) February/March 1978
- State of the Customs Union of the European Economic Community (Rapporteur: Mr Marvier) End March 1978
- Education and vocational training for young workers (Rapporteur: Mr Sloman) End March 1978
- Part-time work (Rapporteur: Mr van Rens) May 1978
- Draft Council Decision on the activities of certain State-trading countries in cargo liner shipping (Rapporteur-General: Mr Hoffmann) May 1978
- Community stand in the face of international monetary disorder (Rapporteur: Mr Charpentie) June 1978

- Progress made in implementing the Lomé Convention in view of the opening of negotiations for a new convention
(Rapporteur: Mr Soulat) July 1978
- The future of forestry in the European Community
(Rapporteur: Mr Maher) July 1978
- Means of communication in the Londonderry/Donegal frontier area
(Rapporteur: Mr Cremer) July 1978
- Greek application for membership of the European Community
(Rapporteur-General: Mr De Ridder) November 1978
- 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
- Report on some structural aspects of growth (Rapporteur: Mr Querini)
February 1980
- Regional programmes (Rapporteur: Mr Hall)
April 1980
- Use of medicine and its effects on public health (Rapporteur: Mr De Grave)
April 1980
- The report on European institutions (Rapporteur-General: Mr Friedrichs)
May 1980
- Development cooperation policy and the economic and social consequences of the application of certain international standards governing working conditions (Rapporteur: Mr Soulat)
July 1980
- Distribution of the total catch possibilities of stocks or groups of stocks occurring in the Community fishing zone (Rapporteur: Mr Leo)
November 1980
- Community accession to the European Convention on Human Rights (Rapporteur: Mr Williams)
December 1980
- Protection of investment in less-developed countries (Rapporteur: Mr Breitenstein)
December 1980
- European Regional Development Fund (5th Annual Report 1979) (Rapporteur: Mr Curlis)
December 1980

**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
					Little	Some	A lot	
Cocoa and chocolate products intended for human consumption (seventh amend. of Directive 73/241/EEC)	7.5.1979	Council	18.7.1979 OJ C 247 of 1.10.1979	OJ L 170 of 3.7.1980			OJ C 34 of 11.2.1980	
				Amended by Commission		x		
Field of biology-health protection (Radiation protection programme) - (five-year R&D programme) (1980-1984)	11.4.1979	Council	27.9.1979 OJ C 297 of 28.11.1979	OJ L 78 of 25.3.1980	The Committee's Opinion approved the Commission proposal			OJ C 34 of 11.2.1980
Multiannual programme of the Joint Research Centre (1980-1983) (communications from the Commission)	26.3.1979	Council	27.9.1979 OJ C 297 of 28.11.1979	OJ L 72 of 18.3.1980	The Committee's Opinion approved the Commission proposal			OJ C 140 of 5.6.1979
				Amended by Commission	x			OJ C 59 of 10.3.1980
Protection of workers from harmful exposure to chemical, physical and biological agents at work	19.3.1979	Council	27.9.1979 OJ C 297 of 28.11.1979	OJ L 327 of 3.12.1980		x		
Radioactive waste management and storage (1980-1984)	19.3.1979	Council	23.5.1979 OJ C 227 of 10.9.1979	OJ L 78 of 28.3.1980	The Committee's Opinion approved the Commission proposal			OJ C 59 of 10.3.1980

Common organization of wine market (Amend. Reg. (EEC) No 337/79)	5.8.1980	Council	30.10.1980 OJ C 331 of 17.12.1980	OJ L 305 of 14.11.1980	The Committee's Opinion approved the Commission proposal	OJ C 291 of 10.11.1980
European Social Fund aid for certain categories of persons (Amend. Decisions 75/469/EEC, 76/206/EEC, 77/803/EEC and 77/804/EEC)	1.8.1980	Council	30.10.1980 OJ C 331 of 17.12.1980	OJ L 332 of 10.12.1980	The Committee's Opinion approved the Commission proposal	
I. Common organization of the market in flax and hemp Amend. Regulation (EEC) No 1308/70 II. Measures encouraging the use of flax fibres for the 1980/1981 and 1981/1982 marketing years	23.4.1980	Council	3.7.1980 OJ C 230 of 8.9.1980	OJ L 256 of 1.10.1980	x	
Radiation protection of persons undergoing medical examinations or treatment	8.2.1980	Commission	3.7.1980 OJ C 230 of 8.9.1980	Proposal amended by Commission	x	
Units of measurement and repeal of Council Directive 71/354/EEC	19.3.1979	Council	25.10.1979 OJ C 53 of 3.3.1980	OJ L 39 of 15.2.1980	The Committee's Opinion approved the Commission proposal	OJ C 127 of 21.5.1979
Controlled thermonuclear fusion (decision adopting a research and training programme) (1979-1983)	6.12.1978	Council	5.4.1979 OJ C 171 of 9.7.1979	OJ L 72 of 18.3.1980	The Committee's Opinion approved the Commission proposal	OJ C 93 of 9.4.1979

Subject	Request	From	ESC Opinion	Decision published	Account taken of Opinion			EP Opinion
					Little	Some	A lot	
Industrial restructuring and conversion operations in the man-made fibres sector	15.11.1978	Council	20.12.1978 OJ C 128 of 21.5.1979	OJ L 326 of 22.12.1979	x			OJ C 127 of 21.5.1979
Multiannual research programme in the field of climatology (indirect action) (1979-1983)	28.9.1978	Council	20.12.1978 OJ C 128 of 21.5.1979	OJ L 12 of 17.1.1980	The Committee's Opinion approved the Commission proposal			OJ C 6 of 8.1.1979
Derogation to Article 1 of 6th VAT Directive (9th Directive)	31.5.1978	Council	21.6.1978 OJ C 283 of 27.11.1978	OJ L 194 of 19.7.1978				OJ C 163 of 10.7.1978
Mutual assistance by the competent authorities of the Member States in the field of direct taxation	22.5.1978	Council	21.6.1978 OJ C 283 of 27.11.1978	OJ L 331 of 27.12.1979		x		OJ C 182 of 31.7.1978
Protection of employees in the event of the insolvency of their employer	27.4.1978	Council	30.11.1978 OJ C 105 of 26.4.1979	Proposal amended by Commission OJ L 283 of 28.10.1980		x		OJ C 39 of 12.2.1979

Reimbursement of value-added tax on taxable persons not established in the country in question	20.1.1978	Council	1.6.1978 OJ C 269 of 13.11.1978	OJ L 331 of 27.12.1979	x	OJ C 39 of 12.2.1979
Community policies for the electronic information industries	22.11.1977	Council	27.10.1977 OJ C 18 of 23.1.1978	OJ L 231 of 13.9.1979	x	OJ C 241 of 10.10.1977
Conservation of fishery resources, measures of control for fishing activities using Community vessels, conservation and management of fishery resources by the establishment of quotas, aid measures for herring fisheries in the North Sea and the Celtic Sea, financial participation by the Community in respect of the inspection and surveillance operations in the maritime waters of Denmark and Ireland (5 proposals)	16.11.1977 and 15.12.1977	Council	30.3.1978 OJ C 181 of 31.7.1978	OJ L 84 of 28.3.1980	The Committee's Opinion approved the Commission proposal	OJ C 6 of 9.1.1978
Hot-water meters	9.11.1977	Council	1.6.1978 OJ C 269 of 13.11.1978	OJ L 211 of 1.8.1978	x	OJ C 131 of 5.6.1978
Making-up by volume of certain prepackaged liquids	14.10.1977	Council	21.6.1978 OJ C 283 of 27.11.1978	OJ L 308 of 4.12.1979	x	OJ C 163 of 10.7.1978

Subject	Request	From	Janu ESC Opinion	Decision published	Account taken of Opinion			EP Opinion
					Little	Some	A lot	
Second three-year plan of action in the field of scientific and technical information and documentation	29.7.1977	Council	27.10.1977 OJ C 18 of 4.11.1978 23.1.1978	OJ L 311 of 4.11.1978			OJ C 85 of 10.4.1978	
				Amended by Commission		x		
Producer groups and associations thereof	9.6.1977	Council	24.11.1977 OJ C 59 of 8.3.1978	OJ L 166 of 23.6.1978		x	OJ C 36 of 13.2.1978	
Post-clearance recovery of import duties or export duties	9.6.1977	Council	24.11.1977 OJ C 59 of 8.3.1978	OJ L 197 of 3.8.1979		x	OJ C 36 of 13.2.1978	
Application of European unit of account (EUA) to legal acts adopted in the customs sphere	18.10.1976	Council	16.12.1976 OJ C 56 of 7.3.1977	OJ L 333 of 30.11.1978		x	OJ C 83 of 4.4.1977	
Customs debt	28.4.1976	Council	28.10.1976 OJ C 299 of 18.12.1976	OJ L 179 of 17.7.1979		x	OJ C 238 of 11.10.1976	

Summer time arrangements	12.2.1976	Council	26.2.1976 OJ C 131 of 12.6.1976	OJ L 205 of 7.8.1980	x	OJ C 79 of 5.4.1976
Admission of securities to official stock-exchange quotation	28.1.1976	Council	30.6.1976 OJ C 204 of 30.8.1976	OJ L 66 of 16.3.1979	x	OJ C 238 of 11.10.1976
Procedures for the release of goods for free circulation	16.1.1974	Council	17.7.1974 OJ C 125 of 16.10.1974	OJ L 205 of 13.8.1979	x	OJ C 85 of 18.7.1974
Mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications in midwifery and including measures to facili- tate the effective exercise of the right of establishment and free- dom to provide services		Council	24.9.1970 OJ C 146 of 11.12.1970	OJ L 33 of 11.2.1980	The Committee's Opinion approved the Commission proposal	OJ C 101 of 4.8.1970
Taking up and pursuit of the acti- vities of midwives		Council	24.9.1970 OJ C 146 of 11.12.1970	OJ L 33 of 11.2.1980	The Committee's Opinion approved the Commission proposal	OJ C 101 of 4.8.1970

Annex D

Graphs

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



NUMBER OF STAFF



MEETINGS



STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

European Communities – Economic and Social Committee

Annual Report 1980

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

1981 – 88 pp., 3 graphs – 14.8x21.0 cm

DA, DE, EN, FR, IT, NL

ISBN 92-830-0028-5

Catalogue number: EX-31-80-295-EN-C

This Annual Report covers the Economic and Social Committee's work in 1980. It looks in particular at the Committee's influence within the Community's decision-making process, the Committee's image in the media and the role played by the groups represented on the Economic and Social Committee. A table showing the work carried out on various Community policies is also included. The Report concludes with a number of lists, graphs and tables detailing the account which the Commission and the Council have taken of Committee Opinions.

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OFFICE FOR OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

ISBN 92-830-0028-5

L-2985 Luxembourg

Catalogue number: EX-31-80-295-EN-C