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I. THE TRADE UNIONS AND EUROPE

THE CHRISTIAN TRADE UNIONS IN THE SIX CONSIDER THE PRESENT GENERAL SITUATION IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Brussels, 21 and 22 April 1966

Following a preparatory meeting of the Executive Bureau on the previous day, the Committee of the IFCTU European Organization devoted its meeting of 22 April to a review of the general situation within the European Community.

"This review," according to a communiqué of the IFCTU European Organization, "led the Committee to the conclusion that the compromise reached by the Council of Ministers in Luxembourg on 30 January 1966 marked only a formal solution of the European crisis and that the basic problem of the political line to be followed in the integration of Europe remained unsolved".

The communiqué further states that the following subjects were discussed by the Committee:

- Consultation of the trade-union movement

"The Committee condemned any attempt that might be made by the governments to obstruct or prevent the Commission from consulting the trade-union movement directly. Moreover, the Committee considered suitable measures to combat influences opposing and preventing the trade-union movement from being regularly informed on all developments concerning European integration".

- Merger of the Executives

"The Committee also considered the existing situation with regard to the merger of the Executives of the three Communities and the implementation of the Treaty on this subject concluded on 8 April 1965. The Committee advocated the prompt appointment of the members who will

form the merged Executive and recalled in this connection the motion of the Executive Bureau published in January 1966". (1)

4th European Conference

"The Committee adopted a draft agenda for the 4th Conference of the IFCTU European Organization. This Conference is to take place in Amsterdam on 6, 7 and 8 October 1966. Among its business will be a debate

(1) In this motion, the Bureau of the IFCTU European Organization re-affirms its view that "the merger of the Executives is only meaningful if it inaugurates an interim period leading to the merger of the Communities themselves by means of a single Treaty replacing the Treaties of Paris and Rome" and that the IFCTU European Organization feels it to be "both self-evident and essential that the responsibility for drawing up this Treaty should lie not with the Committee of permanent state representatives in the Communities but with the Single Commission itself.

This latter should be instructed to draw up a first draft for submission to the Council of Ministers and should continue to be associated with all subsequent work in negotiating this draft". The motion goes on to emphasize that "when the Single Treaty is being drafted, it should be understood that the Commission will consult the European trade-union organizations who will be able to make known their special concerns and demands, without prejudice to further consultation of the Economic and Social Committee of the EEC and of Euratom and of the ECSC Consultative Committee which is also necessary. During the actual negotiation of the Treaty, the European Organization of the IFCTU requests that the European trade-union organizations should participate in the discussions with the status of observers having a right to put their views".

As far as the composition of the Single Commission is concerned, "the IFCTU European Organization asks that, in distributing the fourteen seats, a true balance of nationalities, political groupings and social and economic interests should be provided so as to ensure trade-union representation within the Commission".

The motion also deals with the merger of the Community services, the rôles of the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee (EEC-Euratom) and the ECSC Consultative Committee as well as with the financing of the work of the European institutions.

on a report by A. Cool concerning organizational readaptation and the lines of trade-union action on a European scale. The Conference will also be addressed by M. Théo Lefèvre, the former Belgian Prime Minister".

Action programme

"The Committee also considered measures taken to implement the action programme for a social policy within the EEC as laid down by the European Organization. In this context it gave particular attention to the question of relations at EEC level with trade-union and employers' organizations and reaffirmed the need to set up European Bipartite Committees for each sector".

Relations with ICFTU unions

"With regard to relations with the ICFTU European Trade-Union Secretariat, the Committee noted with satisfaction that a Joint Working Party had been set up to draw up a programme of social action. The Committee accepted the need for ensuring coordination between the two organizations so as to enable a joint contribution of the trade-unions towards the dynamic development of the European Community."

During the proceedings, the Committee of Christian trade unions in the Six paid tribute to the memory of W. Schevenels, General Secretary of the OECD Trade-Union Advisory Committee, who died in March.

Resolution

At the end of its meeting on 22 April, the Committee adopted a resolution in which it:

"notes with satisfaction that the Community Institutions had been able to resume normal working";

"feels, nevertheless, that there is still a need to seek a solution for a number of basic problems, particularly those influencing the future democratic evolution of the Community, and regrets that this has been made more difficult by the uneasiness within the Community which has been further exacerbated by the NATO crisis";

"wishes for a speedy conclusion of negotiations within the EEC Council of Ministers on the financing of the common agricultural policy and on the Community proposals in conjunction with the Kennedy Round".

"During this difficult period which the European Community is going through, the Committee of the IFCTU European Organization reaffirms the loyalty and basic support of the workers for whom it is spokesman".

"At the same time, the Committee wishes to emphasize its determination to maintain vigilance, particularly with regard to:

1. the basic trends in the Community on the social, economic and political planes;
2. the need to continue and develop bipartite and tripartite consultation machinery at Community level;
3. the need to continue and increase the flow of objective information at Community level to workers on all questions arising within the Community".

"Recalling and reaffirming the motion adopted by the Executive Bureau concerning the merger of the European Executives, the Committee pledges the support of all affiliated national trade-union federations and international trade secretariats who will do everything in their power to ensure that the merger shall represent a strengthening and acceleration of the process of European integration".

"The Committee instructs the Executive Bureau:

1. to embark on an investigation into the question of industrial concentration within the Community and to prepare a draft statement on this question;
2. to take steps at all levels with a view to implementing the Action Programme for a social policy within the EEC as laid down by the IFCTU European Organization;
3. to maintain existing contacts and to embark on any further contacts that may be of assistance with a view to influencing and safeguarding a normal development of the process of European integration".

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF MIGRANT WORKERS ORGANIZED BY THE CFDT (FRANCE)

Paris, 25 and 26 March, 1966

On 25 and 26 March, 150 trade-union delegates representing migrant workers held a national conference in Paris organized by the French Democratic Labour Federation (Confédération Française Démocratique du Travail, CFDT) with a view to establishing an organization for giving trade-union support and protection to foreign workers residing in France.

E. Descamps, General Secretary of the CFDT, and G. Esperet, Vice-President dealing with international questions, recalled that every man had a right to live, work and thrive in a country other than that of his birth.

More than 40 delegates contributed to the discussion, bringing out the serious problems their families faced with regard to housing and social welfare.

The Assembly launched an appeal to the workers, the appeal being formulated in five languages (French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic), and adopted a general resolution.

The resolution, after examining the present situation concerning migrant workers in France, demands "a radical reform at all levels of the entire administrative machinery concerned with the problems of migrant workers." The resolution also considers and makes proposals on such matters as the basic education and vocational training of such workers and the question of housing. In this resolution, the CFDT also asks for "the establishment of a National Commission which would be responsible for the entire range of questions affecting migrant workers, the trade unions being invited to participate in the work of this body on the same terms as the representatives of the Ministries concerned" and "being consulted during the negotiation of agreements relating to immigration and the effective participation of trade-union representatives in the proceedings of regional study groups (groupes de synthèse régionaux) which are to be set up".

The reader is referred to a special supplement of No. 1079 of "Syndicalisme", the official publication of the CFDT, dated 2 April 1966, which contains a record of the proceedings as well as the full text of the resolution adopted.

9th Confederat Congress of the French Confederation of Labour (CGT-Force Ouvrière)

Paris, 13-16 April 1966

The Confederation "Force Ouvrière" held its 9th National Congress from 13 to 16 April in Paris, the Congress being attended by more than 1 300 delegates from constituent unions and many foreign guests.

The Report of Mr. Bergeron

A. Bergeron, General Secretary of the Confederation, introduced the report on activities.

In dealing with European and international questions, Mr. Bergeron said that, "in so far as our trade-union movement is of an international character and has to meet the demands made on it by present developments, we cannot confine our concern to our own country. This is the European epoch, the epoch of the free movement of workers, of the establishment of gigantic trusts, of the "Kennedy Round" and the frighteningly rapid modernization of means of transport and there is thus an ever increasing scope for international action".

"Many problems have still to be solved, some of them relating to the relations between the two Europes, that of the Six and that of the Seven" continued Mr. Bergeron. "There is a crisis in the Six. You are all aware of the concern caused in our ranks and of the attitudes we have adopted in conformity with the decisions of our 1963 Congress." Specifying, he pointed out: "We are still firmly convinced of the need for a Europe which is and must, in the future, be even more a stabilizing factor contributing to peace throughout the world".

"It is true that very real national issues - and not only on the French side - will not vanish overnight. In advocating a supranational Europe, we were motivated by a concern to avoid the emergence of a Europe, contrary to the trend of history, which would only range one nation alongside another by means of the traditional type of treaty. And, as R. Bothereau pointed out at our last Congress, if there were to emerge one day a certain consensus between the East and the West, it would be better if this were to embrace countries which had evolved from totalitarianism to a true democracy. It would not be a good idea to

advocate that our country should proceed towards totalitarianism; accordingly, it is in the East that the changes must come".

"I share this viewpoint," continued Mr. Bergeron, "but, although I prefer not to draw any conclusions from the present differences dividing the Russian and Chinese communists, I feel that the idea of polycentrism is no more than an adaptation of the terminology and propaganda employed by international communism in the light of political reality. Let us not be hasty. In all probability, this is what they are counting on. In any case, we are witness to a massive campaign being mounted against the ICFTU unions. This was shown quite clearly at the recent Warsaw Congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions and also by the recent establishment in Rome of a Joint Action Committee by the French CGT and its Italian counterpart, the CGIL. Quite clearly, the aim behind these moves is to bring about united action in Europe. However," the General Secretary of Force Ouvrière emphasized, "let there be no doubt in your minds that, having failed to destroy Europe from outside, these organizations want to eat it away from inside. For their part, the trade unions in the Six are on their guard and, quite recently, they once again rejected any proposals for contacts with unions belonging to the World Federation of Trade Unions."

Mr. G. Ventejol, National Secretary, presented a report on the rôle of the trade unions in society today.

About sixty speakers took part in the discussion on the two reports referred to above.

Addresses by Mr. Levi-Sandri and Mr. Fohrmann

Mr. Levi-Sandri, Vice-President of the EEC Commission, and Mr. Fohrmann, Member of the ECSC High Authority, were both present at the Congress. (1)

Mr. Levi-Sandri brought the greetings of the EEC Commission and wished the Congress a successful conclusion of its business. This was not just a pious wish. The representatives of Force Ouvrière were contributing whole-heartedly to the work being done in Brussels. There was a need for even more intensive action so as to make the Community truly effective.

(1) The addresses given by Mr. Levi-Sandri and Mr. Fohrmann have been taken from the report on the proceedings published in "Force Ouvrière", publication of the CGT-FO, issue no. 1043 of 20.4.66.

The EEC Vice-President went on to point to the need for progress in the sphere of working conditions and also with regard to the participation of workers in economic expansion.

"Soon", Mr. Levi-Sandri went on, "we shall be reaching the final stage of the implementation of the Treaty of Rome. In 1970, Europe will be united, but there will still be a great deal to be done: employment, vocational training, social security and safety of work".

Referring to the crisis of July 1965, the EEC Vice-President said that the causes of this crisis had not altogether disappeared. In this situation, something had to be done. One must have a form of integration incorporating respect of nations and one must appeal to the conscience of the peoples of Europe who will play a decisive rôle in the years to come. The national trade union organizations should strengthen their international ties and reach an ever closer unity. "I am sure", Mr. Levi-Sandri concluded, "that the final result will more than meet our common aspirations. Europe must be united, economically, socially, and politically."

In his address, Mr. J. Fohrmann, Member of the ECSC High Authority, took the opportunity of reviewing the situation in the mines and iron and steel industry in the Community.

"As the moment draws near when the ECSC is to vanish as a separate institution, I have to thank you for never having abandoned us throughout these years. Fourteen years ago you took up a certain political line and predicted what was to come."

After recalling that the social achievement of the High Authority had been the work of the miners and steel-workers, Mr. Fohrmann stated that the High Authority could, at the end of its working life, look back on a truly remarkable accomplishment.

"However, the High Authority is not the only thing to disappear in the merger of the Executives. Soon, a single Treaty will have to lay the basis for European policy for many years to come. We must at all costs avoid any retreat from the principles incorporated in the existing agreements. In the next three years you will have to fight to obtain proper recognition in the new Treaty of the essential rôle which the workers have to play in the Community sphere: the workers must cooperate, but they must also be able to put opposing points of view."

In conclusion, Mr. Fohrmann said that in his view the future appeared favourable, for the Europe that was being built had need of the free European trade-union movement and the latter needed the French trade unions.

Address given by Mr. Buiter

Mr. H. Buiter, General Secretary of the ICFTU European Trade-Union Secretariat, dealt in his address with the rôle of the workers in the European context. After indicating his view that there was a certain risk of "harmonization in a downward direction", Mr. Buiter asked the workers to fight to have their representatives in key positions.

He then went on to recall the conditions under which the trade-union movement had agreed to European integration. "At one time it was said," Mr. Buiter went on, "that France Spain was going to join the European organization," and the speaker recalled the absolute and categorical refusal of the trade unions to accept this country.

Finally, the General Secretary of the European Trade-Union Secretariat recalled the difficulties which had revealed themselves in the Communist national centre: "Faced with this situation, we must close our ranks."

In conclusion, Mr. Buiter hoped that the cooperation of the trade unions in the European context would continue to grow.

General Resolution

The general resolution adopted at the end of the proceedings affirms the desire of the French free trade-union movement to be represented on a basis of independence in all the official bodies concerned with the interests of workers and to put its own point of view and give expression to the international ideals animating the movement.

The general resolution also confirms the deeply felt loyalty of "Force Ouvrière" to the unification of Europe embracing all democratic countries, a Europe which will be an equal partner with America in the grand alliance of peoples who are resolved to fight back against communist ambitions for world domination.

The resolution then affirms that the Congress "considers that the forthcoming merger of the European executives should not result in the suppression of the degree of supranationality already obtained and maintains its demand for a bold social policy for harmonizing in an upward direction the living standards of European workers."

"To realize these objectives, the Congress once again expresses its confidence in the free European trade-union organizations and wishes to see a continuing intensification, an improved coordination and organization of their action both on behalf of workers in particular trades and industries and on behalf of workers as a whole."

In a resolution on Spain, the Congress "rejects the representation in the European Community bodies or in those of the OECD of so-called trade-union representatives who are, in fact, the spokesmen of the Government and not of the country's workers."

In addition to the general resolution, the Congress also adopted a number of resolutions dealing with: housing rights, assistance to developing countries, social security, supplementary pensions, national education, tax questions, economic matters, social problems (in particular, an active policy on employment coordinated at European level) and the rôle of the trade-union movement in today's society.

Resolution on social problems

The resolution on social problems includes the following passage:

"The free movement of workers in the six countries of the European Economic Community will free from restraint the movement of labour. It should be possible to limit the resort to immigration by virtue of the inadequate qualifications of workers likely to move to another country."

"The Congress calls most vigorously for the implementation of an active policy on employment coordinated at European level. Such a policy should embrace the following aspects (we give the main headings):

1. Better fact-finding and forecasting machinery;
2. The strengthening and improvement of vocational guidance services;
3. The development of the means of vocational training;
4. The improvement of the Ministry of Labour employment exchanges;
5. The re-establishment, extension and development of assistance for promoting greater mobility of labour and of means for affording social protection against the risks associated with technical progress;

6. Coordination at European level within the framework of the various provisions of the Treaty of Rome (free movement, vocational training, social fund, Article 118 etc...).

As far as working hours are concerned, the Congress insists that the working week "should be fixed at a maximum of 48 hours and that the system of overtime with compensation should be abolished."

The Congress asks all F.O. affiliates to do everything in their power "to obtain a holiday bonus for all workers and a staged return to the 40-hour week without loss of earnings."

The Congress invites all national unions belonging to Force Ouvrière to "bring pressure to bear wherever necessary with a view to securing a reduction in the number of hours actually worked per week by negotiating such reductions of working hours and fixing them in collective agreements as is the case in the other Member States of the EEC."

With regard to collective agreements, the Congress notes that "there is an increasing deterioration in the contents of French collective agreements which contrasts with the steadily widening scope of collective agreements in the other Member States of the EEC."

The Congress insists, moreover, on "the importance of the problems arising from the scope of collective agreements and from the effect they have on each other when considering them at European level."

The Congress welcomes "the compiling of an index of French collective agreements and a further index of European agreements."

Confederal Bureau

The National Confederal Committee at its meeting on 17 April 1966 re-elected the outgoing Confederal Bureau, the members being:

- André Bergeron, General Secretary;
- Pierre Tribie, Treasurer;
- Maurice Derlin, Secretary;
- Antoine Faesch, Secretary;

- Pierre Galoni, Secretary;
- Roger Louet, Secretary;
- Camille Mourgues, Secretary;
- René Richard, Secretary;
- Charles Veillon, Secretary;
- Gabriel Ventejol, Secretary.

24th Congress of the NVV (Netherlands)

Amsterdam, 30 March-2 April 1966

The 24th Congress of the Netherlands Federation of Trade Unions (Nederlands Verbond van Vakverenigingen, NVV), a Jubilee Congress in celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the organization, was held in Amsterdam from 30 March to 2 April.

In his opening address, Mr. A.H. Kloos, NVV President, stated that "in spite of the enormous progress made over the last 60 years, we are still a long way from seeing a society based on rights of labour. The double function of the trade unions which are, on the one hand, jointly responsible for maintaining the present social order and, on the other, are there to present an organized protest against the existing order, gives rise to particular problems."

"A self-respecting trade union," Mr. Kloos went on, "does not adopt as its sole aim the conclusion of collective agreements regulating the primary and secondary areas of working conditions. It is also deeply concerned with such matters as employment policy, both in relation to the trade cycle and to the general deployment of labour throughout the various sectors, price policy, tax policy, social security, company law, housing construction, the EEC, aid to developing countries, recreation, leisure and culture. In short, there is virtually no sphere in which the trade-union movement has no interest, because everywhere the interests of workers are involved."

Address by Dr. Mansholt

During the Congress, Dr. Mansholt, Vice-President of the EEC Commission, gave an address on European policy. We reproduce below extracts from the record published in "Vakbeweging", the official publication of the NVV, issue No. 8/1966.

"The NVV," Dr. Mansholt stated, "is a faithful ally in the fight for the unification of Europe". He also congratulated the NVV on the resolution adopted by the Federation on the unification of Europe, a resolution which he considered remarkable.

According to Dr. Mansholt, "the political unification of Europe will not be brought about without a fierce struggle and an unrelenting allegiance to the principles of the Treaties of Paris and Rome, to the defence of democratic ideas and the opening up of the Community to countries outside. We cannot be indifferent to the fate of Europe. What is at stake here will be decisive for our future well-being."

"Here we are beginning on the foundation of a community of countries which were formerly competitors and even enemies. This community opens up a prospect of a community of continents, of a community embracing the West and Russia, even China."

"The new Europe will require the establishment of new forms of organization." Dr. Mansholt said that he had been very impressed by the passage in the NVV Resolution arguing for the need for a European trade-union movement. He thought that the time had come to start on the work of setting up a European socialist party alongside a European Christian Democrat and a European Liberal Party. He gave a detailed account of the reasons why the European Economic Community had been so much more of a success than Benelux or the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC).

This success, he thought, was due to the establishment of a good institutional infrastructure in the EEC. The decisions taken by these institutions imposed definite obligations on the national governments concerned. This machinery therefore constituted the embryo of a supra-national government. However, the climate was not favourable at the moment to development towards supranationality, a development that was so necessary. If one considered the nation as the sole political reality, there need be no hesitation in reducing the power of the Council of Ministers, the European Parliament and the European Commission.

In certain spheres, the EEC was ahead of programme, and in others it was behind. Thus, it was behind in the sphere of regional development. Certain areas of economic growth in Europe were developing rapidly; this applied to area extending from the English Channel along the North Sea coast, the Ruhr Basin and the Paris Basin. In comparison, other regions are lagging behind increasingly. In giving examples, Dr. Mansholt did not only cite the case of Southern Italy but also the Northern Netherlands. Equally undeniable is the extent to which the EEC is behind schedule in certain social aspects. There is no European policy on manpower. Admittedly, there is already free movement of workers which already constitutes a considerable step towards a European policy on employment."

Dr. Mansholt also spoke of the French conception of Europe and of other European countries joining the European Community.

The resolution on European integration

The Congress adopted several resolutions, one of which dealt with the question of European integration:

"The Netherlands Federation of Trade Unions, meeting in Congress at Amsterdam on 1 April 1966, reaffirms that it is necessary to set up a European Community on a firm democratic foundation in order to solve many outstanding political and economic problems and instructs the Federation Executive to take account of the following points as a basis for establishing the policy to be followed in the sphere of European integration:

1. The integration of Europe should aim at the establishment of a democratic Community open to all democratic European countries. Democracy should be safeguarded by conferring increased budgetary, legislative and supervisory powers on a European Parliament partly elected on the basis of universal suffrage and by improving consultation with undertakings at European level.
2. A democratic European Community will be able to assist in bringing about a universal body of law. To this end, there should be strengthened political, military and economic cooperation within the West. A policy aiming at improved political, economic and cultural relations should be adopted towards the communist countries. With regard to the developing countries, the Community, as the main trading partner of these countries, should furnish a substantial contribution towards their economic and social development, in the sphere of aid as well as in that of trade policy.

3. Existing cooperation with other trade-union national centres affiliated to the ICFTU within the European Trade-Union Secretariat should lead by stages to the establishment of a "European Trade-Union Centre". The work of this body should not be limited to approaches to the European institutions but should also include the coordination of trade-union policy in the six countries. An attempt should be made to secure the closest possible cooperation with the European Organization of the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions. As long as the affiliates of the World Federation of Trade Unions do not accept the principles of the other trade-union centres in the EEC, there can be no cooperation with them.

4. The machinery available at Community level for carrying out social and economic policy is inadequate. Until such time as it is possible to extend the "arsenal" of instruments for carrying out Community policy, there should be coordination of Community and national instruments within the framework of medium-term economic planning. The main objectives of such planning should be economic expansion, full employment, reasonable internal and external stability, an acceptable distribution of income and a fair distribution of the growth in national income between private consumption and public investment. In a society based on production at the level of the enterprise, economic planning can only produce positive results if there is full consultation between the public authorities, employers and workers.

5. A particular effort will be called for in the sphere of regional and structural policy. The community bodies should give new impetus to regional policy and should give particular attention to the integration of regions, which in certain cases are lagging behind in their development and which cut across national frontiers, so as to provide a healthy basis for their development. Structural policy should create the necessary conditions for increasing the flexibility for solving the problems of sectors having difficulties of a structural character. The experience gained in providing assistance for the purposes of "re-adaptation" (retraining and re-employment) in the ECSC are particularly significant in this respect.

6. The achievements of social policy within the Community are undeniably disappointing. The present instruments (free movement of workers, the social fund and community policy in the sphere of vocational training) should be employed with a view to producing a labour policy based on full employment. In all matters relating to the harmonization of working conditions, a distinction has to be made between the sphere of legislative and administrative measures such as those relating to social security, safety of work, industrial medicine etc. and the sphere covered by collective agreements. As far

as the legislative and administrative measures are concerned, a community solution for the problems arising in present-day industrial society will have to be sought under the direction of the Commission. The representation and consultation of workers which has been accorded at national level in framing such decisions must be instituted in their entirety at the level of the Communities. As far as working conditions governed by collective agreements are concerned, talks must be embarked on at European level in the different sectors through the establishment of bipartite committees for these sectors, which may also be called upon to participate in the study of economic problems. The Commission will be able to play an activating rôle in this sphere.

7. As far as the future development of agricultural policy is concerned, an effort should be made to reconcile the interests of farmers and those of consumers. The sole way of obtaining this is to adopt a structural policy entailing a reduction of costs of production through the setting up of larger and better equipped units of production than those operating today. Production should, as far as possible, be brought into line with demand, this involving of necessity the promotion of high-quality products. Such a policy can only be implemented effectively if there is a general expansion in the economy as a whole and if the social problems arising in agriculture are solved primarily by social policy and not by price policy. The interest of third countries exporting to the Community, particularly the developing countries, should also be taken fully into consideration in the common agricultural policy.

8. It is the duty of the trade unions to be on their guard against any reduction of acquired rights as a result of the harmonization of legislative provisions and to seek the greatest possible extension of these rights. Examples here are the distribution of the tax burden and the concept of co-determination as it effects the law governing the operation of firms.

The NVV Executive

For the next statutory period the NVV Executive will be composed as follows:

A.H. Kloos	President
A. de Boon	Vice-President
B. van Loen	General Secretary
R. Wijkstra	Treasurer
H. ter Heide	Publications Officer
H. Berends	Secretary
L.P.G. Nelemans	Secretary
W.F. van Tilburg	Secretary
F.J. Willems	Secretary

STATEMENTS BY TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES

A MEETING DEVOTED TO EUROPEAN QUESTIONS ORGANIZED BY
THE CHRISTIAN INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL
AND FOOD WORKERS ORGANIZATIONS

Paris, 16 and 17 March 1966

On 16 and 17 March last, the Christian agricultural and food-workers' organizations in the countries of the Community met in Paris. During the meeting, Mr. R. Verschaecken of the Secretariat, Mr. A. Yska, President of the International Federation of Agricultural Workers, and Mr. J. Kulakowski, General Secretary of the IFCTU European Organization, presented three reports dealing with: the activity of the Consultative Committees on Agricultural Products; the achievements and prospects of the "Bipartite Consultative Committee on social questions relating to agricultural workers"; the contents and significance of the Action Programme for a social policy within the EEC.

The subsequent discussion brought out the following main issues:

1. The work of the "Consultative Committees on Agricultural Products"

The meeting expressed the wish that its representatives on these Committees, whether from agricultural workers' or food workers' organizations, should work to ensure that:

- existing marketing regulations in no way obstruct the removal of social conditions in agriculture which depart from social standards generally accepted as fair and reasonable or which would prevent the standard of living of agricultural workers from being brought into line with that of comparable categories of workers employed in other economic sectors;
- marketing policy, price policy and commercial policy for agricultural products take account of the need, in the interest of agriculture itself, for agriculture-based industries to have access to the markets of third-party countries;

- the legitimate interests of consumers are safeguarded in conformity with the very objectives of the Treaty of Rome.

The meeting also demanded that market regulations for sugar, fats, non-edible market-gardening products and unrefined tobacco (uncured) should be implemented as soon as possible in conformity with the principles set out above.

For their part, the Food, Tobacco and Hotel Workers' representatives requested the Secretariat of the Working Party (1) once again to urge the European Commission to consult them on any harmonization measures relating to economic legislation, rules for competition or technical requirements and specifications applicable to their respective sectors in the six countries of the EEC. The agricultural workers also urged that steps should be taken to obtain more effective consultation.

The "Working Party" likewise asked all its representatives in the Consultative Committee on the organization of agriculture, to urge the need for shaping common organizational policy in such a way as to set up viable economic units of production in agriculture which would be able, by the effective application of modern means and methods of production, to increase their productivity so that the improvement in the standard of living mentioned above could be obtained for the entire population engaged in agriculture.

The trade unions feel that there is a particular need to limit as much as possible the use of seasonal labour so as to achieve the greatest possible degree of full employment for permanent qualified agricultural workers who should have an opportunity of obtaining properly adapted vocational training.

General policy on regional development should assist in the provision in the area itself, of new jobs for those leaving employment in agriculture. Both the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund and the European Social Fund have a specific mission to fill in this sphere.

(1) The European Working Party "Agriculture-Food and Drink Industries" was set up some years ago by the two Christian international organizations of agricultural workers and food and drink workers.

Referring specifically to the establishment of community programmes on structural organization, the Working Party stated that these should be shaped so as to promote the development of economically viable units of production and marketing systems which would permanently improve the social standards and status of workers and producers without shackling agriculture-based industry or damaging the legitimate interests of consumers.

2. Achievements and prospects of the "Bipartite Consultative Committee on the social problems of agricultural workers"

After welcoming the work done in this Committee, the meeting recalled once again the resolution adopted on 16 February 1966 by the "Working Party" in agreement with European Secretariat of ICFTU Agricultural Workers in which the two organizations welcome the initiative of the European Commission in giving technical and financial assistance to the workers' and employers' representatives for the purposes of concluding a basic European collective agreement on working hours in agriculture.

The meeting instructed the Secretariat of the "Working Party" to take appropriate action, in conjunction with IFCTU representatives, with a view to inviting agricultural producers to embark on such negotiations at European level.

Once again the wish was expressed that the European Commission would extend a certain right of initiative to the Bipartite Consultative Committee and examine the possibility of promoting the work of this Committee in the market gardening and specialized products sectors.

3. IFCTU Action Programme for a social policy

Those taking part in the meeting congratulated the IFCTU European Organization on the contents of its "Action Programme for a Social Policy in the EEC".

The food, tobacco and hotel workers' unions affiliated to the "Working Party" expressed their particular appreciation of the passage in the Action Programme urging the setting up of bipartite committees for each branch and sector at Community level.

Together with the IFCTU European Organization, they emphasized that the common social policy could be promoted in a more effective and concrete manner by the progressive establishment of European collective agreements.

"EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON PROBLEMS IN THE BUILDING AND WOOD SECTORS"
ORGANIZED BY ICFTU UNIONS IN THE SIX

The Joint Committee of Building and Wood Workers in the EEC, which consists of the Presidents of the ICFTU building and wood workers unions in the countries of the Community, met in Amsterdam at the beginning of April. During this meeting, the Joint Committee examined the conclusions of a comparative study into regulations concerning the effects of bad weather on the building industry in the six Member States and decided to invite the "Permanent Committee of Building Employers" to take part in an exchange of views on the difficulties met with in applying regulations concerning bad weather in the different EEC countries. A discussion of these questions had been decided at a joint meeting of the Employers' Committee and Joint Workers' Committee which was held in Paris last year.

The Joint Committee then considered proposals made by an EEC Working Party on the harmonization of legislative provisions on labour law in the Member States. The Joint Committee felt that there should be a system of regulations for building workers working away from home which would provide for the obligatory application of working conditions currently applying at the place of work.

The Joint Committee decided to convene in Milan in December 1966 a "European Conference on Problems in the Building and Wood Sectors". This Conference will have to consider a social policy programme for the building and wood workers' unions in the EEC.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE CONGRESS OF THE CHRISTIAN
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE,
POST, TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH EMPLOYEES' UNIONS

As already reported (see "Trade Unions News", No. 8/65), the International Christian Federation of Public Service, Post, Telephone and Telegraph Employees' Unions (INFEDOP) held its Congress in Cannes (France) on 16, 17 and 18 September 1965.

This Congress adopted a number of resolutions dealing with European questions and, more particularly, with the representation of these unions at Community level.

In a resolution on "the establishment of committees of trade-union experts attached to international and supranational public authorities", it is stated:

"It is indispensable for representatives of employees' organizations to be admitted to all national and supranational institutions concerned with labour and industrial questions, staff and social matters.

Public service workers should have the right, through the medium of their staff organizations, to cooperate in the development of public services and the harmonization of services and the law relating to them, particularly in the sphere of the EEC".

For these purposes the resolution asks for the setting up of "Committees of Trade-Union Experts", the specific functions of which are to participate:

- "1. in the framing and implementation of all organizational measures affecting staff or certain groups of employees;
2. in the framing and implementation of measures of economic or technical change affecting staff or certain groups of employees;
3. in the framing and drafting of all kinds of investigations into working methods and the use of labour as well as job evaluation studies;

4. in establishing and implementing principles governing:

- a) vocational training of young workers;
- b) further training;
- c) the retraining and re-employment of certain groups of employees;
- d) recruitment, appointment and promotion;
- e) staff budgets;
- f) the framing of general social measures applying to the staff as a whole or to certain groups of employees."

INFEDOP also asked the EEC Institutions and those of the CEPT to carry out comparative statistical investigations on the working conditions and salaries of public service, post, telephone and telegraph employees and to place their findings at the disposal of the trade-union organizations.

The Congress welcomed "the establishment of a Post, Telephone and Telegraph Sub-Committee attached to the EEC" and asked that this sub-committee should be accorded "the status of a general committee, and that it should forthwith open talks with the professional organizations of Post, Telephone and Telegraph employees who should be able to participate in this work as is already the case with the existing General Directions."

WFTU UNIONS AND THE COMMON MARKET

The CGIL (Italy) and the CGT (France) ask for representation on the consultative bodies of the Communities

The Italian and French trade-union organizations, "Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro" (CGIL) and the "Confédération Générale du Travail" (CGT) have recently put forward a new request for representation on the consultative bodies of the European Communities.

A memorandum in support of this request has been forwarded to the European Institutions. The memorandum was published on 5 April in Brussels at a press conference arranged by the Belgian periodical, "Synthèse", attended by the General Secretaries of the CGT and the CGIL, Mr. Frachon and Mr. Novella. During the press conference, Mr. Lama and Mr. Mascarello, speaking on behalf of the CGIL and the CGT respectively, read papers illustrating the arguments employed in the memorandum. It will be recalled that both trade-union organizations are affiliated to the World Federation of Trade Unions which has its headquarters in Prague.

The memorandum

The main part of the memorandum is a declaration of principle. The two organizations place the emphasis on their intention to maintain "their freedom of opinion on everything relating to the Common Market, whilst recognizing the same freedom of other national centres".

The CGT and the CGIL go on to submit that their request for representation on the consultative bodies of the Community is not based "solely on their claim in respect of a legitimate measure which would help to bring about greater democracy in the Community, but also on the need to provide a fuller representation of the French and Italian workers in view of present economic and social developments and in view of the resulting effects on the living conditions of these workers".

The memorandum also contains statements on European economic and social policy and the effects on the workers; on the social objectives of the Treaty of Rome; on the workers' claims etc.

The "anxieties" of the CGT and the CGIL concerning the economic and social situation are brought out in the following passage:

"The definite thrust towards international economic concentration and integration tends to accentuate more and more sharply the degree to which national economic decisions and solutions having a direct influence on workers' conditions are dependent on the policies and political lines framed by large economic groupings working on an international scale. All this brings pressure to bear on the policies followed by the States, with direct repercussions on workers' interests. The reiterated community recommendations for a coordination of the respective national economic policies relating to the level of economic activity and stabilization, continued entreaties on behalf of the so-called incomes policy, trends in economic concentration, the worsening distortions and lack of balance between regions and different economic sectors tend to be directly opposed to economic and social needs and to the rights and freedoms of workers".

As an example of this, it is stated that "the free movement of labour is used by the monopolies as a means of pressing down living standards and working conditions, although work guarantees and security of employment should really be assured by the national economy."

Furthermore the two organizations feel that "the combined effect of free movement of workers and capital is already accentuating the tendency for human and financial resources to be concentrated in the most highly developed regions of the Community, thus impoverishing more and more the under-developed regions, which are primarily the regions on the periphery. This trend threatens to have the most disastrous social consequences and to worsen the existing lack of balance between regions, since the so-called regional policy followed by national authorities, the Community authorities and the instruments of compensation (such as the European Investment Bank and the Social Fund) have shown themselves to be impotent in solving the essential problems."

On social policy the memorandum states that "a comparison of the actual circumstances of workers and the social objectives of the Treaty of Rome shows clearly that these objectives have not been attained."

"This assessment of the situation," the memorandum continues, "is not confined to the CGT and the CGIL. It is one that is being expressed more and more by other national trade-union organizations in the countries of the Common Market as well as by the international bodies of the ICFTU and the IFCTU".

The CGIL and the CGT take the view that "quite clearly, each country must solve its own problems concerning the working conditions and living standards of workers", but, "to the extent that there exists a European Economic Community which has the task of coordinating the economic and social policies of the six member countries, this institution must take proper account of the interests of the workers and respect the social objectives written into the Treaty of Rome, in particular the harmonization of social provisions to the most favourable level."

Finally, the memorandum recalls a series of claims which are common "to the workers of France and Italy and, more generally, to the entire working class of the six countries."

Papers read by Mr. Lama and Mr. Mascarello

In the statement made by Mr. Lama at the press conference on 5 April, there are three main points to be noted:

1. The reasons for renewing the request

The CGIL and the CGT consider themselves as the strongest and most representative organizations of Italy and France. Accordingly, Mr. Lama stated, "it is difficult to maintain that the exclusion of our two organizations from the Community bodies would not have negative effects on the defence and promotion of the interests and claims of European workers at all levels, including the international level."

2. The need for cooperation between the different trade-union groupings

"We feel," the CGIL Secretary pointed out, "that the cooperation and unity of all the European trade-union organizations is a vital factor in building a democratic peace-loving Europe as well as in the promotion of economic and social progress in Europe". (...) "By removing all obstinate discriminatory exclusivism which stands in the way of a united march forward by the unions, by taking up our rightful place in the Community institutions, new conditions will arise which can only be of benefit in strengthening the European workers' front in each and every sector and in promoting progress and democracy throughout capitalist Europe."

3. Assessment of the Common Market

According to Mr. Lama: "The CGIL has always maintained that the internationalization of national economies as well as their integration amount to a very real trend in the present phase of history. It would be an error and a delusion to challenge their validity." (...) What we have criticized and continue to criticize about the Common Market is not the impulse which it has been able to give to technical modernization and the development of production by reason of the widening of national markets. What we do criticize is that the process of integration is taking place at the instructions of the monopoly groups. This is already producing effects in the economic sphere by giving rise to serious inequalities between regions, between sectors and in the distribution of incomes. This is not taking account of the consequences that may follow from the strengthening of monopolies and the effects this will have, as it is having already, on social development and the democratic process, particularly as regards trade-union rights and freedoms."

The same arguments were brought out by Mr. Mascarello, speaking on behalf of the CGT.

1. Mr. Mascarello said that "the right of the CGT to be represented on the Economic and Social Committee does not depend on the organization's views, the right to have such views being unquestionable, but on the confidence placed in the organization by the French working class, as has been demonstrated beyond all doubt by the results of the elections for the social security and family allowance fund administration boards." He claimed proportional representation for his organization, in other words, four seats.

2. In connection with cooperation between all unions, Mr. Mascarello stated that "in view of the alliance of monopolies, it is essential to attain an alliance of workers and their trade unions and to coordinate action". (...) "Thus, the CGT reaffirms that it is ready to talk with all national centres in the countries of the Common Market and Western Europe so as to arrive at common points of understanding which will allow the foundation of an alliance for the common defence of the interests of the working class from the growing power of the monopolies."

3. In connection with the Common Market, Mr. Mascarello asked: "Who set up the Common Market? For whose benefit?" Here is his answer:

"The powers behind the creation of the EEC are the big monopolies and the great financial and industrial empires. The Common Market is

the Europe of trusts and monopolies and not the workers' Europe. It is a "little Europe", not open to all the European countries and definitely closed to the socialist countries."

Referring to a statement adopted at the last CGT Congress, he recalled that "only by thwarting the domination of the monopolies will it be possible to inaugurate true international cooperation answering to the economic and social needs of our age."

Mr. Frachon and Mr. Novella took part in the subsequent debate.

II. REVIEW OF THE TRADE-UNION AND LABOUR PRESS

GENERAL POLICY

"EUROPEENS DE LA PREMIERE HEURE" ("EUROPEANS FROM THE START"), by J. Dedoyard, "Syndicats" (FGTB, Belgium) No. 15 of 16.4.1966, p. 2.

"Not without reason was it said," writes J. Dedoyard, "that the trade-unionists were among the first Europeans. It is well known that the Ruhr Trade-Union Committee was transformed, as it were, overnight into the ECSC Miners' and Steelworkers' Inter-Trade-Union Group. In the course of about twenty years, the old idea of international solidarity has progressed by leaps and bounds. Nevertheless, there has at no time been any halt to underhand, and sometimes open, attacks aiming, if not actually at strangling the idea altogether, at least at reducing it to a simple banal statement."

"The trade unions," the author continues, "have a great rôle to play in the present struggle for a peace-loving, prosperous and socially just Europe. Their first task is to see to it that nationalism does not once again take root in these countries. In the event, the unions will be accused of engaging in politics. This charge is brought up on the slightest pretext to attack organized labour, as if workers were not affected by politics, which is represented as something to be shunned like the plague."

"Those who were Europeans from the start, the trade unions, are deaf to such reasoning. The millions of organized workers constitute a guarantee for the Europe of tomorrow, the Europe of peace, liberty and true justice for everybody."

"ACTION DU SECTEUR CHEMINOTS POUR PLUS DE COHESION SYNDICALE AU SEIN DE LA CEE", ("THE BELGIAN RAILWAYMEN WANT MORE TRADE-UNION UNITY WITHIN THE EEC"), "Tribune" (CGSP-FGTB, Belgium) No. 6, March, p. 15.

In view of the extent and importance of the questions affecting railwaymen in the EEC, the Railwaymen's Section of the Belgian Public Service Workers' Union (CGSP) feels that there should be greater unity among the trade-unions in the face of the unity of employers and governments.

"Tribune" then tells how the leaders of the CGSP addressed a note to other ITF affiliated transport workers' unions in the EEC dealing with the consequences of the Treaty of Rome in the area of social policy and transport policy. According to the CGSP, much valuable work has been done, particularly by the ITF, which can only be of benefit to railwaymen and their trade-union organizations.

"Nevertheless," the article continues, "there can be no doubt that there are two factors seriously obstructing the trade unions from operating at optimum strength: on the one hand, the division of the trade unions between the different international organizations and, on the other, the fact that two railwaymen's trade unions do not belong either to the ITF or to the IFCTU. These two organizations are the CGT (France) and the CGIL (Italy), the importance of which should be assessed objectively. Thus, the railwaymen's trade unions are shut off from each other in watertight compartments, a situation which is both regrettable and harmful, all the more so because there is no denying the extent to which the employers and also the governments stick together."

"Transport policy in the Europe of the Six presents common characteristics. One may note particularly the tendency to keep the railways in an anomalous and difficult financial situation, to refrain from taking measures to bring about a healthy coordination of transport, to hive off many of the railways activities to the private sector."

"It is clear," the journal points out, "that the balance of power in the European Community does not favour the railwaymen. In order to remedy this damaging situation and taking due account of developments in the transport field in the EEC, we have taken the initiative in meeting leaders of Christian trade-unions as well as the CGT (France) and the CGIL (Italy)."

"During these meetings the need for further contacts was recognized. We feel that leaders of railwaymen's trade unions affiliated to any of the Internationals and operating in any of the EEC countries have an interest in making such contacts without excluding anybody."

"It is our common aim to help in bringing about a broad gathering of forces at EEC level with the sole aim of serving the interests of the workers we represent. There can be no question of any of the unions taking part in such meetings committing in any way whatsoever their respective Internationals, renouncing their own personality or seeking any kind of propaganda advantage."

"There is a need," the journal concludes, "for an exchange of views on professional problems which are the concern of all so as to assess the extent to which we shall be able to work even more effectively as trade unions, more particularly, through our existing Internationals. Looking at the matter in this way, we wish to see an extension of existing contacts."

"CURIEUSE VOLTE-FACE" ("A STRANGE VOLTE-FACE"), by A. Gailly, "L'action" (Charleroi), No. 15 of 16.4.1966, pp. 1 and 5.

After reaffirming the loyalty of the ICFTU unions to the construction of Europe and recalling the extremely negative attitude of the communist unions on this subject, A. Gailly expresses astonishment at the abrupt change in policy during the last few months.

"The communists of France and Italy," he writes, "are now pressing for initiation into the Community mysteries. This is a volte-face, a change in tactics as is customary with them. It is due quite simply to no other reason than that Russia and, of course, all her faithful children and servants, feel that in the present world political situation it is better to be in on it than to remain outside."

"If," the writer continues, "they really intend to help towards the unification of Europe and not, in fact, to sabotage the institutions, we shall be the first to rejoice at this change of heart." "The fact is," continues A. Gailly, "that we have often deplored in the European Parliament in Strasbourg and every day in the various European bodies that not all the European labour movement is represented in full. The middle classes are thus in a privileged position. They are in charge and in every sector. The position will remain unchanged as long as the labour movement does not make its weight felt in the European Economic Community where no labour representative has any kind of seat, not even a temporary one, any more. In the contemplated merger of the three executives, the present workers' delegation runs the risk of slow strangulation, all the more since the true European Parliament seems to have been put off until "Domesday".

"To face up to the capitalist group in these bodies," continues the President of the ICFTU Miners' and Metalworkers' Inter-Trade-Union Group in the ECSC, "there is only one real solution, and that is for all workers' organizations to be united against the enemy, in the Committees, in all meetings, in the European Parliament, right the way through the administration. If the French and Italian communists have a constructive approach, then 'fair enough!' Let them see that there is an honest day's work for everybody without any obligation on anybody to sign away his soul!"

"L'INGHILTERRA D'OGGI E PRO O CONTRO L'UNITA EUROPEA?" (IS PRESENT DAY ENGLAND FOR OR AGAINST EUROPEAN UNITY?), by F. Baudel, "Conquista del Lavoro" (CISL, Italy), No. 16 of 17/23 April 1966, pp. 10-11.

The author comments on the results of the British elections and on steps taken by the British Government in connection with Britain's entry to the EEC. He then asks whether Great Britain's entry would act as a brake or a stimulant on progress towards integration in the Community.

"Is it possible to imagine," the author asks, "in the absence of any evidence at present, that there could be an agreement between De Gaulle and Wilson, something that would radically alter the entire situation in the alliance between Europe and the United States?"

SOCIAL QUESTIONS

"LES INCIDENCES DE L'AUGMENTATION DES CHARGES SALARIALES SUR LA POSITION COMPETITIVE DE LA SIDERURGIE BELGE A L'EGARD DES AUTRES PAYS DE LA CECA" (THE EFFECTS OF INCREASES IN WAGE COSTS ON THE COMPETITIVE POSITION OF THE BELGIAN IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY AS AGAINST THE OTHER ECSC COUNTRIES), by A. Grandjean, "Métal" (monthly publication of the Belgian Christian Metalworkers' Union), March 1966, pp. 6-10.

Mr. A. Grandjean, head of the Research Department of the Belgian Christian Metalworkers' Union, writes int. al.:

"The iron and steel industry is going through quite a difficult period. The rapid development of productive capacity in the traditional producing countries and the establishment of plant in a number of countries which have traditionally imported steel have led to an increase in the supply of steel considerably in excess of market demand. This disequilibrium between supply and demand has sharpened competition and led to a considerable reduction in steel prices and, consequently, to a reduction in profit margins. Some claim that the difficulties at present facing the steel firms are due in large part to the rapid increase in wage costs over the past few years."

"However, it should be realized," points out Mr. Grandjean, "that wage costs are only part of costs of production. In the iron and steel industry they make up between 18 and 20 per cent of total costs of production and an increase of 5 per cent in wage costs would thus only work out at a one per cent increase in production costs, assuming that there is no scope for reducing other costs and that productivity remains the same. Moreover, this one per cent increase in costs could only damage the competitiveness of the sector if there were no increase or a lesser increase in costs of production in the countries with which we are competing."

This analysis of the effects of increases in wage costs on the competitive position of the Belgian iron and steel industry gives a firm answer, the author feels, to the unfounded arguments generally advanced in opposing workers' claims for wage increases.

At the end of his analysis, Mr. Grandjean maintains that the ability of the Belgian iron and steel industry to compete with that of the other members of the ECSC has not been impaired by the increases

in wage costs registered over recent years but, rather, that Belgian ability to compete has been enhanced because the net increase in these costs has been appreciably less in Belgium than in the other ECSC countries.

In conclusion, the author states that, if the Belgian iron and steel industry is in difficulties at the moment, the reasons for these difficulties have to be sought elsewhere.

"LE 14ème RAPPORT GENERAL D'ACTIVITES DE LA HAUTE AUTORITE. OU EN EST LE 'STATUT DU MINEUR'?" (THE 14th GENERAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE HIGH AUTHORITY. HOW FAR HAVE WE GOT WITH THE 'MINER'S CHARTER?'), "Au Travail" (CSC-Belgium), No. 15 of 16.4.1966, p. 5.

The CSC publication, "Au Travail", looks at the facts presented in Chapter Five of the 14th Report of the ECSC High Authority. This chapter is concerned with social policy and deals with manpower and employment questions as well as living and working conditions.

"Au Travail" is particularly concerned with the question of the European Miner's Charter and gives an account of the efforts made by the High Authority to promote discussion of this question.

"LA GREVE DES OUVRIERES A HERSTAL, EN BELGIQUE" (THE STRIKE OF WOMEN WORKERS AT HERSTAL IN BELGIUM).

The strike by 3,800 women employed at the Fabrique Nationale d'armes, the Belgian national armaments factory, situated in Herstal, which ran for eleven weeks (16 February to 5 May 1966) has been widely commented in the Belgian and foreign trade-union press.

The strike was in support of a demand for the phased, but effective, implementation of the principle of equal pay.

The principle of equal pay for equal work is written into the Treaty of Rome, in Article 119. The trade-union press has pointed out int. al. that, in asking for this Article to be implemented, the women at the Herstal factory gave their strike a European character.

The reader may like to note that "Syndicats", the publication of the Belgian national centre, FGTB, and "Au Travail", the publication of the National centre, CSC, on several occasions dealt with the course

and characteristics of this strike in February, March, April and May.

Among the trade-union publications issued in other countries dealing with the strike are: "Metall" (DGB-Germany), issue dated 5.4.1966; "Voix des Métaux" (CFDT-France) No. 137, May 1966; and "Labour" (TUC-Great Britain), April 1966.

"MARCHANDS D'HOMMES ET CONTRATS A DUREE DETERMINEE" (DEALERS IN MEN AND FIXED PERIOD CONTRACTS OF EMPLOYMENT) - "Voix des Métaux" (CFDT-France), No. 136, April 1966, p. 10.

This publication reports that CFDT representatives on the ECSC Mixed Commission on Steel have recently raised in Luxembourg questions concerning "public works" firms and fixed-term contracts of employment.

With regard to the first point, "Voix des Métaux" writes: "In spite of our previous approaches, firms trafficking in men, the so-called "Public Works" firms, still exist in a number of French factories. At the same time as management dismisses or reduces its permanent work force, workers are hired by these same firms to "fill in the gaps". These workers are seldom covered by collective agreements and are often basely exploited by false employers who are enriching themselves by hiring sweated labour like the plantation owners who relied on slave labour in previous centuries."

The publication also reports that the CFDT has asked the ECSC to promote an investigation into fixed-term contracts of employment.

"BEZITSVORMING VOOR DE EUROPESE WERKNEMER" (THE EUROPEAN WORKER'S SHARE IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH), "Op de Steiger" (NKV-Netherlands), No. 3, March, 1966, p. 7).

The "account of social developments in the Community in 1964" dealt with questions concerning the distribution of increased wealth.

This article quotes a number of paragraphs from the review and comments on them. A number of these comments are reproduced below:

"We are pleased to note that the workers of Europe are showing a growing interest in the distribution of wealth and the worker's share in this. It would be interesting to make a comparison of the relevant statistics on the distribution of wealth in the six countries of the Community. However, data on this subject are only available for Germany and the Netherlands, the German figures being clearer and easier to

interpret. In both Germany and the Netherlands, wealth is distributed very unevenly and the majority of workers have practically no private assets."

"In all probability the situation is scarcely different in the other four countries (...) The tasks facing the trade unions at European level are many and, at first sight, it would seem that the distribution of wealth and the extent to which the worker might share in this wealth are not among the most urgent of these tasks. However, we feel that it is precisely in this sphere that coordinated action could have the most valuable results for workers one day."

"IL LAVORO ITALIANO", publication of the UIL (Unione Italiana del Lavoro) publishes in its double issue (17 and 18) of 1 May 1966 the full text of an interview given by Mr. Levi Sandri, Vice-President of the EEC Commission, on questions relating to the free movement of workers in the countries of the Community.

ECONOMIC POLICY

"PREISSTEIGERUNGEN IN ALLEN LANDERN DER EWG" (PRICE INCREASES IN ALL EEC COUNTRIES), A DEBATE IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT EVIDENCES SERIOUS CONCERN, "Einheit" (DGB-Germany), 1.4.1966, p. 3.

The article reports on the main points brought out in recent debates in the European Parliament on the economic situation in the Community during 1965 and the forecasts for 1966 and notes:

"The members of the European Parliament asked the European Commission and the Council of Ministers to take all appropriate measures to combat rising prices."

"Mr. Kriedemann, a Member of the European Parliament, emphasized in his report on the economic situation in the EEC and the future outlook, dangers arising from different developments in the individual member countries. There is no longer any way of combating these dangers if one is to be limited to economic measures taken at national level. Accordingly, a common policy to regulate the economy would seem to be more important than anything else."

"According to information provided by the EEC Commission, the increase in prices between 1960 and 1965 was of the order of 24% in the case of Italy, 20% in the case of the Netherlands, 19% in the case of France, 16% in the case of Germany and 15% in the case of Belgium. Further price increases are expected within the Common Market, even in 1966. Accordingly," writes "Einheit", "Mr. R. Marjolin, EEC Vice-President, has put forward a proposal for a tight budgetary policy on the part of public administration, a policy of credit restriction and urged that latent productivity should be better utilized."

"HOHE BEHORDE MIT NEUEN VORSCHLÄGEN" (NEW PROPOSALS BY THE HIGH AUTHORITY) - PRESIDENT DINO DEL BO TALKS WITH THE GERMAN MINERS' UNION - by H.N., p. 12, "Einheit" (DGB), issue dated 1.4.1966.

During a meeting with the Management Committee of the German Miners' Union (IG Bergbau und Energie) in Bochum, President Dino del Bo and Mr. Jean Fohrmann, Member of the High Authority, shared in the considerable concern existing among German miners following the closure of mines and the additional reductions in working hours paid at enhanced rates.

The publication recalls that President Del Bo, emphasizing the importance of coal as an essential source of energy for the future as well as for today, pointed out that the Federal Government, unlike France, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands, had not yet approached the High Authority with a view to instituting, with the assistance of the High Authority, measures to modernize and redevelop industry, which have become necessary as a result of the coal crisis.

"Mr. Del Bo," adds "Einheit", "said that the High Authority is ready to assist, should the Federal Government so desire."

"MEMORANDUM", by. Ch. Cortot, "Le Réveille des Mineurs" (FO - France), No. 119, April 1966, p. 1.

In his editorial, Ch. Cortot deals with the coal situation in Europe in the light of the ECSC Memorandum.

"In its Memorandum, the High Authority," he writes, "puts forward suggestions for putting the European coal market on a sound footing. But, in its view, the future policy which will be indicated in the decisions to be taken is the responsibility of the Member countries. Clearly, the High Authority has shouldered its responsibilities by formulating these proposals, just as the CEPCEO (1) and the unions have done in putting forward their own suggestions."

"But," the author continues, "this is not enough. The governments must take the vital decisions which have to be taken and draw up plans for and organize a European market for coal. Because it is they who are responsible for framing this policy, they must assume that responsibility. All those concerned, whether as workers, producers, or consumers, know that their future will be determined by decisions taken by the governments or which the governments have been unable to take ... The coal situation is far too serious for them to be able to continue prevaricating."

The author concludes: "the Memorandum of the ECSC High Authority is, accordingly, a very important document. The trade-union leaders are also aware of this and intend, during future consultations, to take an active part in the discussion so as to defend the interests of miners and their families."

(1) Comité européen de producteurs de charbon de l'Europe Occidentale.
(West European Coal Producers' European Committee).

"EUROPESE COMMISSIE EN DE TEXTIELINDUSTRIE" (THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY), "De Eendracht" (NVV-Netherlands), No. 8 of 9.4.1966, p. 2.

This publication devotes an article to the note on the textile industry addressed to the governments by the EEC Commission. This note which is no more than a starting point for a common study, makes a number of proposals.

The article concludes with the following observation: "We approve the initiative taken by the EEC Authorities. However, the trade unions will have to be able to participate in this investigation and in carrying out subsequent work. Unfortunately, we are still uncertain about this, notwithstanding the fact that the trade unions have already been in evidence in Brussels. A start has already been made on talks between employers and workers concerning this note within the Economic Committee for the Textile Industry. The Commission's note can be criticized on a number of points. Nevertheless, we are convinced that these points will be clarified during the discussions, at least if the discussion is as broadly based as possible, viz. organized in such a way as to allow all interested parties to express an opinion."

"WAT IS PROGRAMMATIE?" (WHAT IS PLANNING?), by Dr. W. Albeda, "Evangelie en Maatschappij" (CNV-Netherlands), No. 3, March 1966, pp. 61/69.

In this article devoted to planning and programming, the author begins by comparing pre-war and post-war ideas on this subject. He then goes on to deal at greater length with modern ideas and on the French and Yugoslavian experiments. In examining possibilities in the Netherlands, W. Albeda also refers to the work done by the EEC in the sphere of planning.

On this latter subject, he writes: "Those taking part in the drafting of the first Five-Year Programme for the EEC for the period, 1966 to 1970, were mainly government and economic experts."

"The EEC Economic and Social Committee expressed a wish to take part in framing this programme. It was in answer to this request that a sub-committee was set up for medium-term economic policy."

"The European Commission has submitted to this sub-committee a number of questionnaires dealing with expected changes in the working population and with manpower policy. There have also been discussions on what is desirable in the sphere of regional policy. Basic data will be submitted to the sub-committee in the very near future."

"In European trade union circles, this form of cooperation by the trade unions in the work of planning is considered inadequate and unsatisfactory. It would be preferable if the European trade union representatives could take part from the very beginning in the work of planning. As it is at present, the sub-committee does not have access to basic data until after the government representatives have reached agreement on this data. Under these conditions, what sort of influence can one still have on the drawing up of the programme? Of course, it would not be desirable if future European planning could not be based on similar programming in each of the Six countries. It does not seem desirable that the entire range of problems should be tackled solely in Brussels. Developments at European level should encourage in the Netherlands the establishment of a policy of our own in this sphere. In this context it should be noted that we have available both the machinery and the experience which would be useful in establishing (a democratic and indicative) planning.

"ERVARINGEN OP HET GEBIED VAN HET ECONOMISCH BELEID VAN DE EGKS" (EXPERIENCES IN THE SPHERE OF ECONOMIC POLICY IN THE ECSC), by Dr. W. Albeda, "Evangelie en Maatschappij", No. 3, March 1966 (CNV-Netherlands), pp. 78 - 83.

The author begins his article with a global comparison of the scope of economic policy in the ECSC, on the one hand, and in the EEC, on the other. He then goes on to analyse in detail the economic policy of the ECSC and the present and future activities of the EEC in this sphere.

He then makes a further comparison between the two European Communities with regard to procedure. He concludes with the following observations:

"Comparing the EEC and the ECSC in their entirety, one may note that the merger of the EEC and ECSC Treaties could have many favourable results. Alternatively, it could be very damaging. It would be a pity if an enlarged European Economic Community were unable to frame and implement a European economic programme which would be democratic and indicative at the same time."

"Naturally, the attitude which the European trade unions will adopt towards integration will be determined in the main by what is done in this sphere. Will the merger of the Communities lead to the establishment of greater democracy in the European Economic Community or will it express itself in an increasing ascendancy of the "technocrats" which would lead us towards an economic policy in which government experts

make the pace, and in which neither parliament nor those concerned (the employers and workers) are able to say a word? One could say that the managers' Europe is already manifest in the process of economic development itself. We shall not see a workers' Europe until we have succeeded in convincing our governments and the European institutions that the trade unions are ready to shoulder their responsibilities at European level."

III. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND DOCUMENTATION

EEC

"LES SALAIRES DANS LES BRANCHES D'INDUSTRIE" (WAGES IN DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF INDUSTRY), "Etudes", série politique sociale (Studies, social policy series), No. 12, European Communities Publication Services No. 8172, published in French, German, Italian and Dutch. Prices: 9s.0d.; \$ 1.20; FF 6; Bfrs. 60,-; DM 4.80; Lit. 750; Fl. 4,30.

This study deals with wages in building, printing and in the clothing industry.

"INVENTAIRE DES IMPOTS" (INVENTORY OF TAXES), raised in Member States of the European Economic Community including state taxes and local government taxes raised by Länder, départements, regions, and municipalities with revenue tables for the years 1961 and 1962. European Communities Publication Services, No. 1845, published in French, German, Italian and Dutch. Prices: 12s.6d; \$ 1.70; Bfrs. 85.-; FF 8.50; DM 6.80; Lit. 1,060; Fl. 6.20.

The inventory gives a systematic description of taxes raised in the EEC member states. A number of taxes of minimal significance have not been included. The present version shows the situation as of 1 January 1965.

In the inventory, the countries are grouped in the following order: Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands.

So as to make it possible to compare the various taxes raised in the six countries, taxes are grouped in such a way as to bring similar taxes levied in different countries under the same group heading. The group heading (and this applies not only to the main groups, but also to sub-groups and, wherever necessary, other sub-divisions) under which each tax recorded falls is indicated in the outside margin at the top of each page.

The taxes are divided into the following three main groups:

- I. Income, profits, and wealth tax
- II. Taxes levied on increases in wealth and on capital transfers
- III. Various forms of sales or purchase tax.

ECSC

"RESUME DU XIVème RAPPORT GENERAL D'ACTIVITE DE LA HAUTE AUTORITE"
(SUMMARY OF THE XIVth GENERAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF THE HIGH AUTHORITY),
Porte-parole Information Background No. 1797/66, available in the four
official Community languages.

"QUATORZIEME RAPPORT GENERAL SUR LES DEPENSES ADMINISTRATIVES DE LA
COMMUNAUTE PENDANT L'EXERCISE FINANCIER 1964-1965" (FOURTEENTH GENERAL
REPORT ON EXPENDITURE ON ADMINISTRATION BY THE COMMUNITY DURING THE
FINANCIAL YEAR, 1964-1965). April 1966, European Communities Publication
Services No. 12171. Available in the four official languages.

"ETAT PREVISIONNEL DES DEPENSES ADMINISTRATIVES DE LA COMMUNAUTE POUR
L'EXERCISE 1966-1967" (BUDGET EXPENDITURE ON ADMINISTRATION BY THE
COMMUNITY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1966-1967). April 1966, European
Communities Publication Services No. 12170. Available in the four official
languages.

Austerity is the keynote of the budget of expenditure on administra-
tion by the High Authority for the financial year 1966-1967. The High
Authority has once again, as it did in the budget for 1965-1966, endeavoured
to reduce to a minimum any budgetary increases. In fact, it can be said,
generally, that the only increases which have been approved are those
arising from normal salary increments and promotions, in the case of staff
costs, and from the general rise in prices, in the case of all other ex-
penditure. The austerity of the budget is apparent in the fact that total
uncorrected estimates, apart from provision for extraordinary expenditure,
are no more than 3.89% higher than for the current financial year.

EURATOM

"PREMIER PROGRAMME INDICATIF POUR LA COMMUNAUTE EUROPEENNE DE L'ENERGIE
ATOMIQUE" (FIRST INDICATIVE PROGRAMME FOR THE EUROPEAN ATOMIC ENERGY
COMMUNITY), March 1966, EURATOM Commission, published in English, French,
German, Italian and Dutch. Mimeographed edition.

Article 40 of the Euratom Treaty provides that the Commission shall publish at regular intervals programmes of an indicative character with a view to defining objectives for the production of atomic energy and to establishing the amount of all kinds of investment required in order to fulfil these objectives. They are intended to stimulate the initiative of all persons and undertakings working or having an interest in the nuclear sphere as well as to facilitate coordination in the trend of investments in this particular sector.

The document in question here contains a first indicative programme as laid down in Article 40. Now that nuclear energy is entering its industrial phase, it is becoming possible not only to forecast the overall development of this form of energy but also to attempt an evaluation of the different reactor types and to give an indication of the investments that will be required in different sectors of the nuclear field so as to fulfil certain fixed objectives.

This indicative programme is also of particular interest in that the part setting out the objectives for the production of nuclear energy will be of assistance in framing a common energy policy which is at present in the hands of an inter-executive "Energy" working party on which the ECSC High Authority and the EEC and EURATOM Commissions are all represented.

STATISTICAL OFFICE

"STATISTIQUES HARMONISEES DES GAINS - AVRIL 1965" (HARMONIZED STATISTICS ON EARNINGS - APRIL 1965), "Statistiques sociales 1966 (Social statistics 1966) No. 1. Quadrilingual publication.

These statistics are intended to establish actual total average hourly earnings of industrial workers in the six countries of the Common Market and to trace developments.

This investigation covers mining, manufacturing and building. Industrial work has been classified on a uniform basis in all the countries employing the Nomenclature of Industries in the European Communities (NICE). This nomenclature is dealt with in one of the Office's special publications, to which the reader may usefully refer, particularly with regard to the more detailed classification of sectors and sub-sectors and to the transition from national to Community nomenclature.

Data are presented separately for each of the two-figure groups set out in the NICE, with more detailed subdivisions for the industries of the European Coal and Steel Community and for the metalworking industry.

"COUTS DE LA MAIN-D'OEUVRE 1964" (LABOUR COSTS, 1964), Statistiques Sociales, supplément 1966 (Social statistics, supplement 1966), Quadrilingual publication.

In this supplement the Communities Statistical Office gives the first results of the sixth survey of wages in the EEC industries together with the corresponding data for the ECSC industries. These provisional data will later be complemented by a more detailed publication giving a breakdown of the information by item of expenditure, by region and by size of firm etc. The final report will also calculate average industrial earnings.

The investigation is based on figures for 1964 for thirteen branches of manufacturing industry and on the three branches coming under the ECSC. Metal construction is subdivided into six sub-groups.

It should be noted that, in the case of the EEC industries, the data are confined to establishments employing fifty workers and more and, in the case of Luxembourg only, twenty workers and more.

JOINT INFORMATION SERVICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

The Joint Information Service of the European Communities (Common Market, ECSC, Euratom) publishes a series of dossiers in five languages dealing with the most topical aspects of European integration. The dossiers recently published include:

- In French : Nouvelles universitaires no. 4, 15 February 1966
- Nouvelles universitaires no. 5, 15 March 1966
- , (University News, Nos. 4 and 5).

These publications are obtainable from the Joint Information Service of the European Communities, 244, Rue de la Loi, Brussels, or 18, rue Aldringer, Luxembourg, or from the Community Information Offices in Bonn, Paris, The Hague, Rome, London, Geneva, Washington and New York.

MISCELLANEOUS

"COMITE D'ACTION POUR LES ETATS-UNIS D'EUROPE (1955-1965)" (THE ACTION COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED STATES OF EUROPE (1955-1965) - Recueil des déclarations et communiqués - Centre de Recherches Europeennes, Lausanne. (A collection of statements and communiqués, published by the European Research Centre, Lausanne, 1965) Price: Sfr. 25.

The Action Committee for the United States of Europe was set up in October 1955 by the socialist, christian-democrat and liberal parties of the six countries of the European Community and by the ICFTU and IFCTU unions in these countries acting on a proposal made by Jean Monnet.

To mark the tenth anniversary of the Committee, the European Research Centre in Lausanne, directed by Professor Henri Rieben, has published in a single volume all the statements and communiqués put out by the Committee between 1955 and 1965.

The volume, which has an index, constitutes a valuable aid for anyone wishing to improve his knowledge of contemporary European history.

"LA FUSION DES COMMUNAUTES EUROPEENNES", colloque organisé à Liège les 28, 29 et 30 avril 1965 par l'Institut d'études juridiques européennes, Faculté de droit, Liège. (THE MERGER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES), a discussion organized on 28, 29 and 30 April 1965 by the Institute of European Legal Studies, Faculty of Law, University of Liège. By M. Nijhoff, The Hague, 1965.

This book is a record of the proceedings of a discussion organized in Liège on 28, 29 and 30 April with Professor Dehousse in the chair. It deals with the three following subjects: the merger of the common markets; the merger of institutions and powers; and the unification of systems of recourse to legal proceedings.

The report on the merger of the common markets introduced by Mr. G. Van Hecke, Professor of Law in the University of Louvain, examines existing divergences between the three treaties and asks what would have been the rational content of a single Treaty, conceived as such from the start.

This was followed by a discussion on a report by Professor Ernst Steindorff who noted that the decisive factor was in the sphere of economic policy.

The report on the merger of the institutions and powers by Mr. Pescatore, Plenipotentiary Minister and Visiting Professor (professeur extraordinaire) in Law at the University of Liège, examines the consequences of this merger on the structure and powers of the Community institutions and outlines the functions and role of the single Commission.

During the ensuing discussion, President Del Bo and Professor Teitgen of the Faculty of Law in the University of Paris, drew attention to the need to extend the powers of the European Parliament. As far as the single Executive is concerned, the ECSC President placed the emphasis on the necessary autonomy which was the "key to success". President Hallstein dwelt on the need to reach agreement on a common economic and social policy. President Châtenet pointed out that the drafting of the Charter for the single Community must be closely supervised by a body which is already organized on a community basis and that there will be a transition from a synthesis of existing powers to an assumption of universal authority.

Finally, the 3rd Report on the merger of the systems of recourse to legal proceedings, was introduced by Mr. P. Mathijsen, Legal Advisor to the ECSC.

In a closing address, Professor Fernand Dehousse analysed and summed up the discussion.

TO OUR READERS

THIS PUBLICATION IS INTENDED TO KEEP THE TRADE-UNION LEADERS OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMED REGARDING THE VIEWS OF DIFFERENT TRADE-UNION ORGANIZATIONS ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE. THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS, AND MUST NOT BE TAKEN AS COINCIDING WITH THOSE OF THE COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS.

Editors' Note

