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I. THE UNIONS AND EUROPE

A MAY DAY MESSAGE FROM MR. LEVI-SANDRI,  
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EEC COMMISSION

Mr. Lionello Levi-Sandri, Vice-President of the EEC Commission, sent the following May Day Message to trade union organizations affiliated to the European Trade Union Secretariat of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) and to the European Organization of the International Federation of Christian Trade Union (IFCTU) :

"I wish to send to your Confederation, to all affiliated organizations and to all workers represented my warmest greetings and most sincere wishes for the First of May. The active and fruitful cooperation of the working class of our countries, as represented by the free trade unions, in the construction of an economically and politically united Europe is of fundamental necessity to overcome the remaining obstacles and will be more necessary than ever in the future in carrying out a task which will allow our peoples to fulfil at world-wide level their duly appointed role and to be a decisive factor in maintaining peace throughout the world. It is my wish that this cooperation may be increasingly intensified in the future and I would like to express my most earnest wishes for the future of your organization and for the economic and social progress of our Community and of your country".

CONFERENCE ON THE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF  
NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT

Munich, 25, 26, 27 May, 1966

During discussions held on 25, 26 and 27 May 1966, the EURATOM Commission and representatives of ICFTU and IFCTU trade-union organizations in the Community examined the various social implications arising from the development of nuclear industry in Europe.

During these discussions, Mr. de Groot and Mr. Margulis, Members of the EURATOM Commission, together with the trade-union rapporteurs, Mr. Bouladoux, Friedrichs, Ferrini, Van den Eynde and Lahnstein, reviewed the various problems arising in this sphere. It was possible to identify certain social guiding lines on the basis of the foreseeable development of nuclear energy.

The work of this meeting was devoted to :

- the social aspects of nuclear development indicated by the fulfilment of the first EURATOM indicative programme;
- the effects of nuclear development on the volume and quality of jobs in the spheres concerned;
- questions relating to vocational training and instruction in relation to foreseeable quantitative and qualitative trends in available employment.

Other questions examined included job guarantees, free access to qualified jobs, trends in the number of employed directly related to the increasing size of establishments.

The important subject of safety and health of working, including measures designed to protect the health of workers in nuclear establishments, was also subjected to a detailed examination.

The meeting also considered various methods for improving the gathering and dissemination of statistical data on nuclear hazards and ways of preventing these.

Finally, the meeting gave consideration to the contribution, which nuclear energy might make in the field of regional development.

This conference, which forms part of a series of contacts between the EURATOM Commission and the trade union movement, was instrumental in outlining the social problems connected with the development of nuclear energy between now and 1980 and of the inferences concerning future action to be drawn from an overall view of the nuclear economy and the implementation of methods for securing more sustained and closer cooperation.

"FORCE OUVRIERE" (FRANCE) WELCOMES THE AGREEMENT  
REACHED ON THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Paris, 12 May 1966

In a communiqué put out on 12 May, the French national trade union centre, "Force ouvrière" welcomes an agreement reached on agricultural policy in Brussels, an agreement "which shows the consolidation of the Common Market, which had been seriously threatened following the crisis of June 1965".

"The common agricultural policy", the communiqué continues, "should allow us to proceed from now on in the direction of a world-wide organization of markets".

"Force ouvrière" recalls that "the earnings guarantee for those engaged in agriculture should lead to an effective policy on behalf of workers who have been kept too long below the average level of workers generally".

"In the industrial sphere, the measures contemplated should act as an incentive to employers to modernize their undertakings in order to be able to compete effectively".

"Force ouvrière" recalls in this connection the resolution adopted by the Ninth Congress of the national centre in April 1966 advocating an active employment policy which cannot be separated from the improvement of working conditions and living standards. (see "Trade Union News", n° 3/1966).

TRADE UNION CONGRESSES

SEVENTH CONGRESS OF THE GERMAN FEDERATION  
OF TRADE UNIONS (DGB)

Berlin, 9 to 14 May, 1966

The Seventh Congress of the DGB, which was held in West Berlin from 9 to 14 May 1966, was attended by 440 delegates and approximately 700 observers and official guests. The German Federation of Trade Unions itself represents six and a half million German workers, and trade unions in no less than 38 countries had sent delegations to the Congress. The Congress discussed and adopted more than two hundred resolutions on various political, social, economic, educational and cultural questions.

Among those taking part in the Congress were Mr. H. Lübke, President of the German Federal Republic, as well as several representatives of the political parties.

Mr. B. Storti, President of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, brought fraternal greetings from sixty million workers from more than one hundred countries affiliated to the ICFTU. In his address to the DGB Congress, Mr. Storti gave particular emphasis to the important role played by the DGB, acting in cooperation with trade unions from the other EEC countries within the European Community. He added that the social integration of Europe should be further consolidated. He also welcomed the initiative taken by the DGB in promoting ownership of shares by workers; this claim would help not only to eliminate old injustices, but also to stabilize the economy.

Address given by Mr. J. Fohrmann, Member of the ECSC High Authority

In his address to Congress, Mr. J. Fohrmann, Member of the ECSC High Authority, said int. al. :

"We have often in the past had occasion to remark on the vigorous initiative of the Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund which has made a considerable contribution in shaping the policy and objectives of the European trade union movement.

Thus, I, myself, as a former metal worker and trade union official of many years standing, have the honour to be present among you in my capacity as representative of the High Authority and to say to you in all frankness and without hesitation that the cooperation and participation of the trade unions in decision making do not represent for us any sort of bogey; nor are they seen by us as a question of dogma or as the objective of a policy aiming at domination. This cooperation and participation by the trade unions as practiced within the European Coal and Steel Community reveal themselves as a form of constructive collaboration which has given ample proof of its validity".

"This collaboration", Mr. Fohrmann added, "has been fruitful not only during the first years of European enthusiasm. Its usefulness and necessity were demonstrated to all concerned, primarily, during the last few years which have been characterized in the main, by the economic difficulties facing our industries and by acrimonious political discussions on a number of basic questions relating to the structure of our Community. For this reason, I find it deplorable and incomprehensible that the Treaty of April 1965 regulating the merger of the EEC, EURATOM and ECSC Executives no longer provides for the cooptation of a trade unionist as Member of the single Commission. Thus, there has been swept out of existence an institution of the Coal and Steel Community, which, at the time when the process of integration was just beginning, appeared to augur well for the coming of a new social idea in Europe".

Mr. Fohrmann went on to state that "the impending merger of the European Executives and the negotiations which will follow concerning a merger of the three Communities represent the inauguration of a particularly decisive phase in the process of European integration and will require the trade unions to increase their attention and take a more energetic part in future developments".

"As a convinced European, myself", he continued, "I have no doubt that a unified Europe will come about on the economic plane and also, finally, on the political plane. However, I have no illusions. After more than forty years of political and trade union activity, I prefer political realism to ideological passion. Looking realistically at the present state of affair within the Community, there is every reason to think that European policy in the coming period will have to be concerned with consolidating what has already been achieved rather than in attempting to make further gains. What has been achieved at Community level is widely appreciated throughout the world. Admittedly, these results are only partial and incomplete and, in many respects, we are only at the beginning, but it is a beginning which gives us great expectations and opens considerable prospects".

Mr. Fohrmann felt that "the vital, or rather, historic mission of the trade unions in the near future would be to preserve what had been achieved

and to continue the work they had embarked on, to prevent what had been obtained from being compromised by arbitrary political attacks by isolated and small-minded elements and to thwart any attempt to sacrifice the fruits of their labours on the altar of an outmoded and bankrupt nationalism, for whose notorious excesses we had twice in the last fifty years had to pay a heavy reckoning in bloodshed and human misery. The trade unions, with their task of defending the interests of workers, could not do better than to bring about the conditions in which a new and just social order could be established within a peaceful Community, devoid of tension and freely developing on the economic plane".

#### Resolutions adopted by the Congress

Among the many resolutions adopted by the Congress, we mention those concerned with European questions.

#### Development of the European Communities

"After a long and difficult crisis, the three European Communities, EEC, ECSC and EURATOM, have, from the beginning of 1966, resumed normal activities.

In the interests of peace, economic development and social progress, the Seventh Federal Congress of the DGB (German Federation of Trade Unions) invites all responsible authorities of the Member States of the Communities to refrain from any action which would once again jeopardize the great work of unification at the urging of narrow national interests or by giving way to the short-term interests of certain groups.

This Congress expects the Governments of the Member States to refrain from interpreting the Luxembourg agreement of 28 January 1966 as establishing a right of veto during voting within the EEC Council of Ministers.

This Seventh Ordinary Federal Congress requests these Governments to support all measures leading to an integration of States and populations and which, in particular, assist in the adoption and implementation of a progressive common social and economic policy.

The DGB is, furthermore, ready to make its contribution towards the foundation of a free, democratic and social Europe. The aim of the Federation of Trade Unions is and will continue to be the political and economic unification of Europe. This aim of the DGB corresponds to the aims of sister organizations within the EEC which are affiliated to the ICFPU.



The contribution of the trade unions, however, can only be effective if the parliamentary democratic forces and the trade unions are allowed to play the part which is rightfully theirs in the construction of a new Europe. The construction of the new Europe involves, primarily :

- the strengthening of the European Parliament, particularly by the speedy application of the right laid down by the EEC Treaty to elect members of the Parliament directly by the people;
- the strengthening of the Commission's position;
- the strengthening of the position of the Economic and Social Committee by conferring on this body the right of initiative;
- the strengthening of direct cooperation between Community bodies and the trade unions on the lines of the fruitful method adopted by the ECSC High Authority;
- increased efforts to promote the flow of information concerning the European Communities and to make their aims, work and achievements more readily understood by the population at large.

The DGB calls upon the Federal Government to put forward these requests to the Council of Ministers of the European Communities and to take the necessary steps to secure representation of the free trade unions of EEC Member States in the future single Commission of the free European Communities".

#### Merger of the Executives

"The Executive Board of the DGB is instructed to make vigorous approaches to the Federal Government so as to assure the protection of workers' collective and social interests by their trade unions on an institutional basis when the time comes to merge the Commissions of the three European Communities. The Federal Government should be requested to take steps to secure the representation of the free trade unions of the EEC Member States in a future single Commission of the three European Communities.

#### Supporting arguments :

With more than 15 million members, the free trade unions of the EEC countries represent the majority of workers organized in trade unions. They feel called upon to represent the collective economic and social interests of all workers in the countries of the European Communities and declare their readiness, as representatives of a large majority of the

population, to take on their full share of responsibility for the future political, economic and social development of the six countries of the Communities.

"In order to enable the free trade unions of the EEC countries to carry out their duties on their own responsibility, Governments of Member States of the Communities should, when it comes to implementing the decision that has been taken to merge the Commissions, grant them a seat and a vote within the future single Commission. This wish is also justified by the fact that the provisions in the EEC Treaty relating to the harmonization of social policy have not been drafted with anything like the precision and formal character which characterizes, for example, the provisions relating to economic integration. This difference explains why social harmonization is already seen to be lagging behind progress in economic integration. If the trade unions were to share directly in the responsibility for the future development of the Communities, this could make a substantial contribution towards securing a better balance between the interests of all the social groupings".

#### The strengthening of cooperation between trade unions in the European Communities

"As the process of economic integration in the European Communities continues, more and more important decisions on economic policy and on social policy will be taken by the bodies of the European Communities. Organizations representing management as well as those representing the interests of agriculture are increasingly making their political and professional decisions within this new economic and social context. The trade unions, in defending the principle of supranationality in economic and political integration, should, accordingly, resolutely strengthen their own supranational cooperation so as to be able to defend effectively at supranational level the interests of the workers they represent".

"The Seventh Ordinary Federal Congress, accordingly, calls upon all free trade union circles within the six Member States of the EEC to strengthen cooperation between trade union federations of the EEC countries. The forthcoming merger of the executives of the European Communities should, subject to consultation with the international secretariats of the respective trade unions and professional associations, provide an opportunity of measuring the adequacy of trade union representation on the bodies of the Community. In this context it will be necessary, in formulating common trade union policies within the EEC, to strengthen relations with trade unions in countries which are not yet members of the EEC".

Congress adopted a motion providing for the setting up of a committee to deal with matters relating to the European Communities and instructing the DGB Executive Board to assign one of its members to deal with the coordination of all European activities of the DGB.

## Social harmonization in the EEC

"The Seventh Ordinary Federal Congress of the German Federation of Trade Unions (DGB) notes with concern that, in view of the reservations of the Governments of a number of Member States, there has, for some time, been a lack of significant progress with regard to "social harmonization with a view to the improvement of living and working conditions" of workers, although such measures are expressly provided for in the Treaty of the European Economic Community.

"Although France has resumed negotiations within the Council of Ministers, this Member State does not seem inclined to make any contribution to overcoming once and for all the stagnation brought about by the crisis by coming forward with new initiatives also in the field of social policy. This Congress rejects the alarming view of the French Government which lead this Government to maintain that the trade unions and employers should be denied any participation in the establishment of measures of European social policy as provided for in Articles 117 and 118 of the Treaty.

"The Seventh Ordinary Federal Congress calls upon the Commission of the European Community to continue to cooperate with the representatives of the workers.

"This Congress reaffirms its view that the trade unions will support all measures taken by the Commission destined to harmonize in an upward direction the living and working conditions of workers. Congress recalls the perfectly legitimate reference by the Commission in its Action Programme of 1962 to the fact that a united Europe was unthinkable without the consent of the workers. In view of the fact that the negative attitude of a number of governments which has been evident for some time with regard to "social harmonization" is calculated to arouse the suspicion of workers with regard to certain developments within the European Community, this Congress urges the Commission to continue at all times to bear in mind its supranational European responsibility as established by the Treaty. In the sphere of European social policy, the Seventh Ordinary Federal Congress feels that the following objectives must be pursued with urgency and increased vigour :

1. European full employment;
2. harmonization of social security provisions.

"The provisions of the Treaty concerning the free movement of workers have contributed towards securing European full employment by reducing existing unemployment. Other measures should be applied as soon as possible so as to avoid unemployment brought about by technological progress.

"It is now a year and a half since proposals for the effective operation of the European Social Fund and for financing this Fund were submitted to the Council of Ministers. This Federal Congress expects these measures to be implemented as soon as possible, so that, with their aid, it will be possible to carry out an active European policy with full employment.

The Federal Congress also feels that the measures provided by the Treaty in such spheres as the free movement of workers, European vocational training and the operation of the European Social Fund should be implemented and coordinated with a view to securing European full employment.

With regard to the harmonization of social security, experience shows that the mere coordination of the existing social insurance schemes of the six Member States will not suffice to overcome the social disadvantages encountered by workers who have been employed in several Member States. In response to approaches made by the trade unions, the Commission has taken account of this fact by making recommendations inviting Member States to improve and bring on to a uniform basis their respective national legislation in the social sphere. The Federal Congress pays tribute to this initiative taken at European level and expects Member States to make their contribution to the process of social harmonization in an upward direction, by following up these recommendations".

#### EEC Agricultural policy

"In accordance with Article 39 of the EEC Treaty, guaranteed supplies to consumers are included in the objectives of the common agricultural policy.

The delegates of the Seventh Ordinary Federal Congress, note with regret that, so far, this objective has not been attained. Since the EEC marketing organizations began to operate, there has been in the Federal German Republic a constant marked increase in the prices of foodstuffs. It has been possible to ascribe these price increases particularly to the fact that the marketing machinery operates solely in one direction in the EEC marketing organizations which have so far been set up.

"All the marketing organizations operate in such a way that cheaper foodstuffs from other countries are made artificially dearer to import. This price increase which takes the form of a levy is automatically increased as foreign prices sink. In this way, internal producer prices continue to be protected even when world market prices sink.

"On the other hand, none of the marketing organizations is endowed with compensating machinery which would protect the consumer by reducing the levies and induce imports when the internal price level goes up.

"This has allowed prices to rise considerably, thus causing growing concern among consumers and discrediting the EEC policy.

"In order to be able in future to act more rapidly in dealing with price increases the Federal Government is invited to shorten the procedures necessary for requesting reductions in the levies so that such requests may be submitted to the Commission or the Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community not later than eight days following the ascertainment of such price increases.

"Furthermore, the delegates of the Seventh Ordinary Federal Congress expect the Federal Government to protect the interests of consumers more vigorously than it has done up to now by taking steps to ensure that all the marketing organizations are regulated in such a way as to guarantee an automatic reduction in the levy whenever there is an internal price increase, thus preventing prices from rising by increasing the volume of imports".

#### Relations between the EEC and third countries

"The delegates of the Seventh Ordinary Federal Congress of the DGB note with satisfaction that, following the settlement of the serious crisis in the European Communities, there is now a possibility of revising relations between the EEC and third countries.

The delegates invite the Federal Government to urge upon the EEC Council of Ministers to take the necessary steps so that :

- the European Economic Community may make a worthy contribution to the Kennedy Round negotiations with a view to the removal of obstacles to international trade. Whilst respecting the EEC Treaty, this contribution should embrace all branches of economic activity including agriculture;
- the European Economic Community should bring to a conclusion that will be satisfactory to both parties the negotiations for the associate membership of Austria;

- that greater use might be made than hitherto of existing Treaties of Association, particularly with a view to strengthening and making more effective the assistance given by the European Communities to developing countries associated with the Communities.

"This Congress invites all parties concerned to utilize to the full, in talks and negotiations, every opportunity for enlarging the EEC so as to avoid an economic division of the free part of Europe. It should be possible, on the basis of the Treaties of Rome and Paris, to bring about the entry of other countries, particularly Great Britain, Ireland and the Scandinavian Countries.

All applications for entry by governments which do not recognize basic, essential democratic rights of free, independent trade unions are to be rejected".

#### Executive Board

Congress reelected, for the full statutory term of office, all the members of the outgoing Executive Board; the Executive Board will be composed as follows :

Ludwig Rosenberg	President
Bernhard Tacke	Vice-President
Herman Beermann	Vice-President
Mrs. Maria Weber	Member of the Executive Board
Wilhelm Haferkamp	Member of the Executive Board
Kurt Stühler	Member of the Executive Board
Günter Stephan	Member of the Executive Board
Werner Hansen	Member of the Executive Board
Waldemar Reuter	Member of the Executive Board

The other members of the Executive Board, the Presidents of the sixteen national unions affiliated to the DGB, were also reelected.

#### 4TH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE UILCID (ITALY)

Florence, 28, 29 and 30 April 1966

From 28 to 30 April 1966, the Italian Union of Chemical and Industrial Workers, an affiliate of the UIL, held its fourth National Congress in Florence. The Congress was attended by more than 200 delegates from local constituent unions and several Italian and foreign trade union leaders, including Mr. I. Viglianesi, General Secretary of the UIL, Mr. W. Gefeller, President of the International Federation of Chemical Workers (ICFTU) and Mr. A. Augard, Vice-President of the International Miners Federation (ICFTU).

Mr. L. Ravecca, General Secretary of UILCID, introduced the Report on Activities. In his introduction he dwelled at some length on the work of the UILCID within the EEC and emphasized on a number of occasions that the problems of the Italian workers, particularly those in the chemical branch, had now taken on proportions which nearly always took them over and beyond national frontiers. Mr. Ravecca also pointed out that, in future, his organization would carry out all its trade union activities in close cooperation with other European trade unions.

In his address, Mr. W. Gefeller, President of the International Federation of Chemical Workers (ICFTU), also stressed the same questions and assured congress participants of the complete solidarity of workers affiliated to his International.

Mr. Augard, Vice-President of the Miners' International Federation (ICFTU), brought fraternal greetings from his organization.

At the end of the discussion, Congress adopted a resolution, from which we reproduce below the passage relating to European questions :

"The conditions of workers, the pace of economic development and of the development of production, the scale of present day markets and the functions of the democratic trade unions in present-day society have all been the subject of discussions at this Congress. In the era in which we are living, these problems are no longer confined in their scope to one particular country but are valid over a much wider area and deserving of the attention of a greater nation, the European nation, the Community.

Mindful of the much greater scale on which trade unions operate today, this Fourth National Congress of the UILCID has reaffirmed the undertaking of democratic workers to participate in the construction of a federal Europe, in which the rivalry of separate national interests and the network of monopoly interests will be swept away by a supranationality based on free and democratic institutions and, above all, on the European Parliament, a supranationality rooted in the assent of the people freely given through general elections using a system of direct voting.

"A Europe organized in accordance with the principles of political and economic democracy is the goal to which the workers of the UILCID will be marching, taking their place among the united ranks of the great international of democratic trade unions and firmly resolved to secure proper recognition for the work and prestige of the trade unions and the forces representing industrial and agricultural labour in the Community dialogue. Particular concentrations of productive resources at international level lend urgency to the question of coordination and the united struggle of workers in the chemical industry throughout Europe. The urgency attaching to the establishment of bodies at Community level for ensuring closer and more effective cooperation between workers is, accordingly, much greater in the chemical industry than elsewhere. Congress recommends the future governing bodies of the UILCID to give particular attention to this matter since it is the subject of a specific proposals put before the competent international authorities.

"The thrust forward towards the economic and political Community of the peoples of Europe gains increasing urgency and a deeper meaning from the transformation which the various national societies are at present undergoing as they come together in establishing the Community".

At the conclusion of the proceedings, Congress elected the following to office on the respective governing bodies :

National Secretariat :

Lino Ravecca, General Secretary  
Michele Fiorillo, National Secretary  
Leo Biggi, National Secretary

National Committee for the Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sector :

Michele Fiorillo, Secretary

National Committee, Artificial Fibres :

Ernesto Cornelli, Secretary

National Committee, Mines and Quarry Sector

Luciano Bacci, Secretary



National Committee, General Industrial Sector

Domenico Tardioli, Secretary

National Committee, Glass and Ceramics

Pierfranco Collina, Secretary

## STATEMENTS BY TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES

### COMMON TRANSPORT POLICY

#### Statement by the free transport workers' unions (ITF-ICFTU)

Utrecht, 24 May 1966

The Committee of ITF Unions in the EEC, representing free transport workers' trade unions in the six Countries, held a meeting in Utrecht (Netherlands) on 24 May to establish guiding lines for future activities within the Community during the coming months and to reaffirm their view that "the progressive unification of transport systems is an essential condition for a sound and balanced development for European integration.

The Committee emphasized that only a new political agreement by the Council of Ministers of the EEC would enable the European transport policy - particularly the decisions envisaged concerning price policy and the harmonization of conditions of competition - to get out of the blind alley where it was at the moment.

In a statement addressed to the responsible authorities of the EEC, the ITF-ICFTU transport workers' unions expressed "a fear that the implementation of the Commission's proposals (of October 1965) concerning a system of bracket rates could involve a further deterioration in the competitive position of transport undertakings and thus endanger the living standards and employment level of wage-earning workers in this sector.

In this connection, the Committee asked for the prior fulfilment of certain conditions, namely : more competitive rates; supervision of transport rates and conditions of transport; effective supervision and control of transport capacity.

With regard to the question of social harmonization in the sphere of transport the ITF-ICFTU unions reaffirmed their readiness "to assist the competent authorities of the EEC to draw up regulations in this sphere.

The bipartite committees for each of the three means of transport, which are to be set up with the Commission, represent the appropriate channel for such cooperation".

A memorandum by the Christian transport workers unions (CEE-IFCTU)

Brussels, 2 and 3 June 1966

The European Transport Committee (IFCTU) met in Brussels on 2 and 3 June 1966.

In a memorandum published after the meeting the CET, "whilst welcoming the resumption of work by the Council of Ministers at the beginning of 1966 with a view to continuing the process of European integration, regrets that for months passed no further progress has been achieved towards implementing a common transport policy. As a result, there is a particular risk that it will not be possible to keep to the timetable with regard to measures envisaged in the Decision of the Council of Ministers of March 1965 relating to the harmonization of conditions of competition, particularly as regards the social provisions". In this context the CET urges that the EEC Commission should submit as soon as possible to the Council of Ministers the draft series of regulations relating to working conditions in road transport.

With regard to the principles of European integration, the common transport policy and social policy in transport, the CET recalls and reaffirms :

1. the resolution relating to European integration and the common transport policy adopted at the Congress of its world federation which took place from 20 to 27 May 1964 in Ostend;
2. the CET memorandum of 10 November 1964 relating to the basis and the principal social aspects of the common transport policy;
3. the CET views as defined by the Committee at Munich on 17 September 1965, concerning the overall decisions on the common transport policy taken by the Council of Ministers during its sessions of 9 March and 22 June 1965 (1).

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(1) See "Trade Union News" N° 5/1964; 1, 4, and 8 of 1965

The second part of the CET memorandum sets out the views of the Committee on certain points of the new proposed regulation of the Council relating to the establishment of system of bracket rates to be applied to goods transport by rail, road and inland waterway submitted by Commission on 27 October 1965.

A RESOLUTION BY ICFTU CHEMICAL WORKERS' UNIONS  
IN THE SIX COUNTRIES  
CONCERNING THE GENERAL SITUATION IN EUROPE

Florence, 29 April 1966

The EEC Coordinating Committee of the International Federation of Chemical and General Workers' Unions, to which are affiliated free trade unions organizing workers in the chemical, petroleum, rubber, paper, glass and ceramics industries and which represents approximately one million members, meeting in Florence on 29 April 1966, reviewed the political, social and trade union situation within the European Economic Community (EEC) and adopted the following resolution :

"The Coordinating Committee

- welcomes the resumption of normal proceedings within the Council of Ministers of the Six in Brussels following the agreement reached on 28 and 29 January 1966 in Luxembourg;
- hopes that the application of this agreement will not be a new source of dispute and that the representatives of governments and of the EEC Commission will be able to reconcile the vital interests of the member countries according to the spirit and the letter of the Treaty of Rome and that this clear principle will not be used to compromise the provisions of the Treaty relating to decisions taken by a majority within the Council of Ministers;
- reaffirms its resolve to have a development towards the creation of a Europe united on a supranational and democratic basis;
- rejects any weakening of existing supranational institutions, particularly the EEC Commission;

- requests that the European Parliament be given full parliamentary powers and genuine rights of control;
- requests that workers' trade unions should be effectively represented with the EEC Commission;
- notes with alarm that the present political situation within the EEC obstructs any policy destined to promote any progress at supranational level;
- opposes most vigorously all attempts to prevent cooperation between the EEC Commission and workers' and employers' organizations in the field of social harmonization and protests against the opposition of the certain governments to social progress;
- reaffirms its complete, unreserved backing for the claims put forward by workers to improve their wages, reduce their working hours without loss of earnings, to obtain recognition of trade union rights and for a greater measure of economic democracy;
- asks that there should be immediate and full implementation of the principle of equal pay for equal work by male and female workers in accordance with the spirit of Article 119 of the Treaty of Rome;
- expresses solidarity with workers in the different countries of the Common Market in their struggle to improve their working conditions and standard of living;
- affirms that the progressive implementation of the Common Market of Europe and the finalization of the process of European construction entails the existence of a true and effective counter-balance represented by the trade unions to counteract the dominating influence of the governments and employers;
- declares its readiness to assist in establishing in Europe an economic system inspired by democratic, progressive and socially conscious principles which guarantees workers a fair share of produced wealth;
- finally, the Coordinating Committee affirms its desire to employ all available means to ensure that Europe becomes the common homeland of all Europeans, a homeland of prosperity and freedom".

## II. REVIEW OF THE TRADE LABOUR AND UNION PRESS

### GENERAL POLICY

"COMMENT VIVENT-ILS ?" ("How do they live ?"), "L'Action" - Charleroi, N° 18 of 14.5.1966, pages 1 and 2.

The Statistical Office of the European Communities - writes "L'Action" - has just published a monumental statistical work : a detailed analysis of the national accounts of the different countries.

"Specialists", "L'Action" points out, "have a well-nigh inexhaustable wealth of information to dip into at their leisure. These figures have to be interpreted with caution, primarily because certain statistics are lacking (particularly on Italy and Luxembourg), secondly because it would be necessary to go into some detail in defining the facts covered by the different headings, because international comparisons are always hazardous, because methods of computing national accounts still involve, in spite of progress that has been made, considerable margins of error.

"Nevertheless, these figures, with all their imperfections, give us a sharp enough picture of our peoples, of German strength, of Italian efforts to overcome poverty, of the French balance which is not, perhaps, as dynamic as it might be, of the different roles played by the States, savings and the different industries".

"LA FRANCE - L'EUROPE - LA PAIX MONDIALE" ("France - Europe - World Peace") by G. Esperet, "Syndicalisme" (CFDT-France) N° 1082 of 23.4.1966 page 1.

"The most balanced solution" writes G. Esperet, Vice-President of the CFDT, "would certainly lie in an independent Europe, which would be a partner of the United States, the USSR and China and able to play a significant role alongside these three powers. This is something which goes beyond neutralism and it could be called a work on behalf of peace, for it is a policy which would facilitate reconciliation of different points of view and would contribute towards resolving disputes without resorting to violence ... This is a role which France could play together with Europe, inside Europe. On her own, she would have to be content with putting forward ideas, with giving rise to hopes which her intransigence and her excessive pride, would, finally, only prevent being realized".

"However, in order to make this choice and apply this solution, there would need to be an ideologically strong and peaceful Europe, working generously but without undue naivety for the establishment of peace, being in a position to defend peace and at the same time capable of effectively opposing violence".

"But", G. Esperet continues, "Europe is still encumbered by the remains of an outmoded ideology. In the present stage reached by the advance of technology, it would be immediately recognizable as an aberration to put forward to young people as an ideal the jaded liberalism, the view of the firm, the conception of the boss's authority deriving from the end of the Nineteenth Century or to abuse the great principles of liberty as a basis for rejecting any economic organization or any system of planning. Let us have no more ardent appeals for supra-sovereignty, whenever it is not inconvenient, followed by an immediate return to narrow national thinking whenever interests so require".

"A drifting ideology is not enough to attract and encourage men to give their services. Thus, the first need is for trade unionists to build up a strong ideology by discussion, research, by argument with men who are independent of powerful economic forces".

"A L'OUEST DU NOUVEAU" ("New developments in the West") by Henri Clavolles - "FO Magazine" (France), N° 7, May, 1966, page 12.

In an article dealing with important European events of recent weeks, Henri Clavolles, after welcoming the agreement reached in Brussels on the common agricultural policy, clarifies the position of the French national centre, "Force ouvrière", following the claims put forward by the French CGT and the Italian CGIL for representation in the European institutions.

"NECESSITE D'UNE ECOLE SYNDICALE EUROPEENNE" ("The need for a European Trade Union School") by A. Clot - "Le Réveil des Mineurs" (FO Mineurs, France) N° 120 of May 1966, page 6.

After stressing the significance of the instruction given to trade unionists by the ECSC in Luxembourg, A. Clot writes int. al. :

"Why should there not be a European trade union school which, with courses lasting six or eight months, or even longer, would have the task of training trade unionists for work on a European scale ? Such trade unionists would be well equipped for their tasks in the future. They would be the best defenders of that which many statesmen have been advocating since the war : to take the necessary steps to prevent a repetition of past errors".

"Soon, very soon, we would have the most convincing confirmation that the means necessary to set up such a school could not have been better employed. Our trade unions must insist on setting up such a school. Trade unionists should not be the poor relations in our Community.

"We want neither a business Europe, nor a Europe of special interests. This European trade union school is absolutely indispensable if we are to build a Europe that will be acceptable and, particularly, to those who follow us".

"AFSCHEID IN MENTON" ("Good-bye in Menton") by Dr. P.J. Vos, "De Vakbeweging" (NVV, Netherlands), No. 9 of 26.4.66, pp. 146

In this article, the author refers to the "Policy Report" published by the High Authority at the beginning of 1965 and also to the European trade union meeting organized by the High Authority at Menton on 9, 10 and 11 February 1966 (see "Trade Union News", No. 2/66).

After writing about the merger of the Executives and about the future Single Commission, the author looks at the social policy of the High Authority and compares this with the possibilities open to the other two European Communities in this sphere :

"Admittedly, workers' representatives have, on several occasions, had little hesitation in criticising the social policy of the High Authority. At the same time, however, they have often appreciated the skill shown by the High Authority in making the best of the limited possibilities open to it under the ECSC Treaty to take action in the social sphere as well as the readiness of the High Authority to consult these representatives over a wide area".

"Our friends in the coal mines will be particularly ready to agree with us that the ECSC Treaty is inadequate in many respects. These inadequacies are due to political factors and also to the fact that radical changes which were to come about in the coal and steel market were scarcely to be foreseen at the time the Treaty was drafted. On the other hand, the High Authority was obliged to get a good mark for cooperation and consultation with the workers' organization, since the ECSC Treaty made a formal obligation of this cooperation and consultation. Moreover, the Treaty provided the High Authority with the means, particularly the financial means, enabling it to get certain results in this sphere. We mention this last point as an



extenuating circumstance in the cases of the two other executives, the EEC and the EURATOM Commissions. For all that these latter embark on discussions with workers on numerous questions, the technical and financial resources necessary for continuing these consultations run out more often than not at the moment when concrete results are in sight".

"OVER INTEGRATIE GESPROKEN" (Integration) - "De Werkmeester" (NKV, Nederlands) No. 4 April 1966, p. 15.

The first part of "Trade Union News", No, 2/1966, was devoted to the European trade union meeting organized by the High Authority of the ECSC at Menton on 9, 10 and 11 February 1966.

"De Werkmeester" reverts to the subject of this meeting and draws the following conclusions :

We have the impression that the High Authority, in organizing this conference, was not so much concerned with the past but wished rather to secure the support of a trade union movement well informed on recent events for the forthcoming struggle for the maintenance of the advantages of the ECSC when the Communities are merged. This was certainly a praiseworthy initiative but, in our view, it would be appropriate for the other executives, particularly The EEC Commission, to organize themselves a similar social conference having regard to the forthcoming merger. In the event of such a conference being organized, there would, unfortunately, be fewer actual achievements in the social sphere, to examine and it would be possible to concentrate entirely on the future".

#### "ECONOMIC POLICY"

"EUROPA BLEIBT NICHT STEHEN - GEMEINSAME WIRTSCHAFTSPOLITIK BEGINNT - INTERVIEW MIT DEM VIZEPRAESIDENTEN DER EWG, ROBERT MARJOLIN" - ("Europe is not standing still" - "A start on the common economic policy" - Interview with Mr. Robert Marjolin, Vice-President of the EEC) "Der Gewerkschafter" (DGB) No. 5, 1966 pp. 184-186

Divided into three sections setting out topical questions relating to the EEC, this interview deals particularly with the problems arising in the context of the political integration of Europe, the Kennedy Round negotiations, the medium-term economic policy and the efforts of the EEC Commission to halt inflationary trends.

With regard to the attitude of the European trade unions towards the process of the European integration, Mr. Marjolin, Vice-President of the EEC Commission writes :

"In my opinion, it is necessary for the trade union movement within the framework of the EEC to unite, to merge. The more it succeeds in this, the more its influence will increase. Naturally, it is my wish that this influence should be imbued with good sense and ability commensurate with the scale of the future EEC. I am aware of the difficulties involved. Nevertheless, one ought, at least, to aim at securing the closest possible cooperation between the non-communist trade unions so that they can show themselves to be as united as possible. This would be a major contribution towards the economic integration of Europe".

Mr. Marjolin describes the close relationship between economic and social policy in the following way : "I would like to urge most of all that, in future talks, we should refrain from distinguishing between social policy and economic policy. If the Commission succeeds in assuring rapid economic expansion combined with relative price stability, this will certainly be the most significant, the most valuable contribution towards the social well-being of the working population. For, if we can do this successfully, it should also be possible to secure a just distribution of the increased economic wealth.

"OM DE ENERGIE" (The energy question) - "De Mijnwerker" (NKV, Netherlands) No. 9 of 28 April 1966, p. 3.

Some months ago, the ECSC High Authority published a memorandum dealing with coal production in the ECSC countries. Subsequently, the West European producers, this time in cooperation with the British National Coal Board, published their third report on the supply of energy in western Europe.

Below we reproduce the comments of "De Mijnwerker" on these two documents;

"The Consultative Committee of the ECSC High Authority will be meeting on 28 April next in Luxembourg to discuss the "Memorandum" mentioned above and to decide, if possible, on advice to be given to the High Authority. No doubt, the report in question will also be brought up during these discussions. In the meantime, we feel it is worth pointing out that the report of the West European coal producers makes it clear that, in the long run, it will not be possible to do without coal in spite of the availability of oil, natural gas, nuclear energy etc. (even those not producing coal are inclined to believe this). It is, however, also worth pointing out that this report

fails to make any suggestions with regard to suitable measures, relating either to the practical or to the financial and economic aspects, for guaranteeing a fixed level of coal production in the ECSC countries. At national level, more extensive aid measures are advocated. How far ought such measures to go ? Furthermore, will it be possible for the national governments and the ECSC itself to bear the cost of such assistance without endangering the national economy ?

"The underlying cause of the coal crisis in Western Europe should not be looked for in the competition from imported coal but in geological factors which make for difficult working in the different basins. For many years to come, coal will be needed for assuring the supply of energy, but only such coal as can easily be worked, such coal being perfectly competitive.

"Accordingly, it is self-evident that financial and economic measures, instituted at national level, will not be enough in themselves to guarantee the absorption of production, if they are not accompanied by rationalization, mergers, and a reasonable integration of profitable mines. We are in agreement with the report where it points out that a considerable margin should be left so as to safeguard energy supplies.

"On the other hand, we are at a loss to understand what the coal producers of Western Europe mean by greater assistance in promoting sales, considering that the Federal Republic has recently paid out 52 million DM for four shifts ordered not to be worked and has expanded a further 434 million DM on stock-piling, guaranteeing and transporting 4 million tons of coal. Where do such national protection measures stop ?"

"SITUATION CONJONCTURELLE DE LA COMMUNAUTE ; QUESTIONS A LA COMMISSION"  
(The present level of economic activity in the Community : Questions put to the Commission") by Théo Rasschaert - Bulletin put out by the ICFTU European Trade Union Secretariat, No. 2, April 1966, pp. 8-11.

After recalling and commenting on the vote taken by the Economic and Social Committee on the present level of activity in the Community, based on the Fourth Report for 1965 on the economic situation in the Community, Mr. Rasschaert examines the First Quarterly Report for 1966 on the economic situation in the Community. He points out that the statement adopted by the Economic and Social Committee contains the answer to the analysis made by the Commission of the causes of the increase in prices.

According to Mr. Rasschaert, the Commission, in the First Quarterly Report for 1966 on the economic in the Community, exonerates the effects of the trend in dividends and the level of re-investment.

"In these circumstances", Mr. Rasschaert adds, "we see no reason to modify our view; the trade unions cannot accept that, in looking for the "stabilization of wage costs per unit of production", the entire weight of economic policy should rest solely on wages. In fact, Mr. Rasschaert continues, "the findings of the Economic and Social Committee, which are also our findings, show quite clearly that wage increases are certainly not the only factor explaining the price increases. Price increases represent a problem which is of concern to us all. At the present stage a solution to this problem will be brought no nearer by insisting on an incomes policy, which, even if it were a true incomes policy, is no better defined than previously, but will depend much more on the answers given to the question unanimously put by the Economic and Social Committee.

#### AGRICULTURAL POLICY

"LA POLITIQUE AGRICOLE EUROPEENNE" ("European agricultural policy")  
Bulletin, CSC-Belgium, No. 6 of 15.5.66 pp. 1-14.

This number of the CSC bulletin is devoted entirely to European agricultural policy.

At the end of its examination of this question, the CSC puts forward a number of considerations applying to the trade unions.

"From the very beginning," the CSC Bulletin writes, "the trade unions in our countries, particularly the CSC, have always advocated the achievement of the large-scale European expansion represented by the European Economic Community.

"They did this, because they feel that this Community would fit in with modern economic expansion and with social developments, all the more so because the objectives set out in the Treaty of Rome overlap with the desires of the workers : the constant improvement in standards of living, greater economic stability." "But", adds the CSC bulletin, "the trade unions have also urged that these objectives should be pursued in a spirit of economic democracy and social justice entailing the fair distribution of increasing wealth and a marked sense of responsibility towards the other countries in the world. For these reasons, we feel that a European agricultural policy was justified, in view of the economic, technical, structural and social problems arising in the agricultural sector not only in Europe but throughout the world".

"One cannot hide the fact that such a policy requires gigantic financial resources in view of the fact that the basic structure of the agricultural economy has to be adapted in accordance with the possibilities presented by modern technology."

"The Christian trade union movement agrees that the necessary financial measures for bringing this about should be approved within the framework of the common financing of agriculture, on condition that it is kept duly informed by the competent Belgian governmental authorities in charge of negotiations, at EEC level, on matters relating to the fixing of European agricultural prices".

"In this connection, it is necessary, to pay particular attention to the consequences of fixing prices at too high a level. There are two disadvantages here : there would be an increase in the cost of living, and, further the high level of prices could, in certain circumstances, lead to such an increase in the production of certain agricultural products within the EEC that surpluses will accumulate and the staged reduction in the number of uneconomic agricultural producers could be correspondingly delayed. This could undermine the effectiveness of structural adaptations financed by the Guidance Fund. The absorption of such surpluses could, in its turn, be a serious burden on the Guidance and Guarantee Fund which would have to be borne by the entire population of Europe".

"Accordingly, at whatever cost, we must carry through as soon as possible the necessary structural reforms for increasing productivity in the agricultural sector by drawing up common programmes with a view to improving conditions effecting the production and marketing of agricultural products.

"It should also be emphasized that, hitherto, insufficient attention has been given to the social problems of European agricultural workers; one has only to look at the delay in implementing the views given by the agricultural workers' bipartite consultative committee.

"In the context of the Kennedy Round negotiations, one should not, moreover, underestimate the significance of the European agricultural price level in fostering and increasing international trade with developing countries who should, through export of agricultural products, be enabled to develop their economy, considering that these countries could represent an important outlet for European industrial production involving several million workers".

"LES PRIX AGRICOLES DANS LA CEE - CONSEQUENCES IMPREVISIBLES"  
("Agricultural prices in the EEC - unforeseeable consequences") by  
M. Lahnstein - Bulletin put out by the ICFTU European Trade Union Secretariat  
No. 3, April 1966, pp. 6 - 8.

In this article, M. Lahnstein notes that, acting on the urgent entreaties of the trade union delegates, the Economic and Social Committee has adopted certain criteria which should serve as a basis for a later assessment of agricultural prices. Furthermore, the Commission was invited to draw up in the near future an annual survey of agricultural trends in the EEC and to submit this to the Economic and Social Committee for its views."

"In future" Mr. Lahnstein adds, "this will allow - or so, at least, the trade unions hope - an examination to be made of the Commission's proposals concerning agricultural prices and will ensure that this examination, based on objective criteria, will be carried out in a more satisfactory way than is possible at present."

"DER DSCHUNDEL LICHTET SICH" ("Light in the Jungle") by M. Lahnstein,  
"Die Quelle" (DGB) (Germany) No. 5, 1966, p. 201.

"In addition to the general objectives of the EEC Treaty," the author writes, "agricultural policy must aim at fulfilling the objectives defined in Articles 39 and 110 of the Treaty : to assure a fair standard of living to the agricultural population, particularly by raising the individual incomes of those working in agriculture; to ensure reasonable prices for goods delivered to the consumer; to be mindful of the need for contributing, in accordance with the common interest, to the harmonious development of world trade.

"The simultaneous achievement of these objects," Mr. Lahnstein continues, "is not a practical possibility". In this connection, he feels that the EEC must "give priority to attaining one of these objectives whilst being careful not to lose sight of the other two. In this connection, priority so far has been given to improving the incomes of the agricultural population".

According to the author priority has been given to this objectives because of the political pressure exercised by the strongly organized agricultural populations of the Community countries and the attempt made to bind French policy to that of the EEC by means of an agricultural policy favouring France.

The author also feels that the way chosen to obtain this improvement in incomes has been primarily through a policy on prices rather than through a structural policy".

With regard to the future fixing of prices for agricultural products, Lahnstein draws the following conclusions : "It is to be noted in this connection that for a number of very important products, German producers are obliged to lower their prices. This applies not only to wheat which will show a price reduction of approximately 12 per cent. In the case of milk, there will be no price changes for the producer. But, in view of the fact that in the meantime production costs must, it would seem, show some slight increase, here too there will be a reduction in receipts. Beef prices will show a slight reduction as well as the price for sugar beet. Other prices will increase, for example, the prices of butter and cheese (although, in this particular case, special price supporting measures are envisaged) as well as the price of rapeseed".

The author ends by emphasizing that the prices paid to producers are never more than a part of the prices paid by consumers and expresses strong doubts whether agriculture-based industry and, above all, wholesalers and retailers will show the necessary sense of discipline in setting their prices. Lahnstein fears, in fact, that there will be: "a further widening of distributive margins because of increases in prices to the consumer or by not passing on to the consumer the benefits of reductions in costs".

"L'EUROPE VERDE" ("Agricultural Europe") by F.B. "Conquiste del Lavoro" (CISL, Italy) Nos.22-23 of 29.5. and 11.6.66, pp. 5 - 7.

The Italian CISL publication contains the first article of an investigation into questions relating to the common agricultural policy. The author devotes particular attention to the agreement reached at the meeting of the Council of Ministers on 11 May last.

#### "EURATOM"

"EUROPESE GEMEENSCHAP VOOR ATOOMENERGIE "EURATOM" ("The European Atomic Energy Community") "De Technicus" (NKV, Netherlands', No. 4, April 1966, p. 108.

This article is devoted to an examination of the "First Indicative Programme" of EURATOM.

The author uses the opportunity to draw attention to the question of publicity and information : "As we have already indicated, the information put out by the EURATOM services is destined primarily for scientists. If there has not yet been enough material of a more general character, there are clearly good reasons, different tactics being required for Dutchmen as opposed to Italians, for Frenchmen as opposed to Sicilians. Nevertheless, one feels that the flow of information should be increased and, in this respect, the assistance by each Member State is highly appreciated. It is worth pointing out that the financial assistance given for the information services of the Community comes to 1.3 million dollars over a 5-year period compared with an annual expenditure of 5 million dollars on information in America."

### III. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND DOCUMENTATION

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This report presents for the first time the facts concerning the implementation of the decision taken in Rome on 30 June by the Technical Committee on free movement, acting on the initiative of the Commission services, and designed to rationalize the work provided for in Articles 29 and 36 of the Regulation no. 38/64.

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"8ème RAPPORT D'ACTIVITE DU COMITE MONETAIRE" (8th Report on Activities by the Monetary Committee), Brussels 15.4.66, Publications Services of the European Communities No. 1024 (published in four languages).



The object of this Report is to present a survey of the activities of the Monetary Committee of the European Economic Community during 1965.

### ECSC

"14ème RAPPORT GENERAL SUR L'ACTIVITE DE LA COMMUNAUTE" - (1.2.65 to 31.6.66)" (14th general Report on Activities of the Community, 1.2.65 to 31.6.66) Luxembourg, March 1966. Published in four languages - Publications Services of the European Communities, No. 3818. Prices : Bfrs.150; FF 15; DM 12; Lit. 1870; Fl. 11.

"FABRICATIONS NOUVELLES" (New manufactures) by Alain Savary - Collection d'economie et politique régionales (Regional policy and economics series) Publications Service of the European Communities, No. 3709.

To carry out this research project the High Authority asked four specialist institutes to draw up a list of industrial sub-sectors belonging primarily to the steel and coal-based industries with development prospects which would justify market studies concerned with new manufactures suitable for introducing in industrial redevelopment regions.

This particular volume begins with an analysis of the methods employed by each of the institutes for drawing up its own list of industrial sectors or sub-sectors. This is followed by an indication of the criteria which have guided the institute in determining a single list of industrial sub-sectors having good expansion prospects for the next few years.

Annexed is a summary of more detailed monographs on certain of these sub-sectors which have been passed on to the Governments of the six countries for possible further action.

In conclusion, there is an examination of the best systems to be employed for putting the results of this investigation to use in each country of the Community.

### EURATOM

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"MISCELLANEOUS"

"STATISTIQUES DE BASE DE L'ENERGIE" ("Basic energy statistics") - OECD - Paris.

The 1966 edition of basic energy statistics published by the OECD is in a rather different form than that used in previous years.

The present volume contains for each year of the period 1950 - 1964 statistical data relating to 22 energy sources, set out within the framework of an overall coverage of the energy sector.

Ideas are presented for the OECD area as a whole as well as for the main divisions : North America, OECD Europe and Japan.

A second volume (to be published at a later date) will set out, for each European country belonging to the OECD, complete data for the period 1950 - 1964.

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NOTE TO OUR READERS

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

Editor's note.

