

TRADE UNION BULLETIN

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TRADE UNIONS AND OTHER PRIORITY MILIEUX

C O N T E N T S

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1. The new Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities - a woman trade unionist
2. Extracts from the speech by Mr Kok, President of the FNV (Netherlands Trade Union Federation), at the sixteenth Congress of the Association of European Journalists in The Hague on 6 October
3. Main points of Mr Davignon's speech at the seminar on steel organized by IG-Metall (the German Metalworking Industries Union) in Mulheim on 7 November
4. European trade union seminar on energy organized by the OTV/DGB in Berlin, 16-21 October
5. Europe: the Dream and the Reality - Twenty-sixth European Colloquium of the Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund (German Trade Union Federation) in Frankfurt on 4 November

1. THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES - A WOMAN TRADE UNIONIST

The new Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee, Mrs Fabrizia Baduel-Glorioso, was elected by a large majority. Much is being made of the fact that she is the first woman to reach a position of such eminence in the Community institutions. This is indeed a noteworthy event, since it illustrates the reluctance with which men agree to share power. Fabrizia Baduel-Glorioso is in fact the only woman on a Bureau with over 20 members.

Mrs Baduel-Glorioso does not owe her election solely to her sex - far from it. She was proposed by the Workers Group (the Economic and Social Committee consists of three numerically equal Groups: the Employers' Group, the Workers' Group and the Various Interests Group) as a trade union militant of long standing and has never concealed her belief that the interests of workers in general should come before the special interests of women.

Mrs Baduel-Glorioso joined the Research Bureau of the CISL (Italian Trade Union Confederation) in 1953 and, in addition to playing an active role in the creation of the European Trade Union Confederation, has helped to defend workers' interests wherever necessary at international level. In the course of time, this field of union work not only gave Mrs Baduel-Glorioso the opportunity to display her dynamism and efficiency but also brought her increasing responsibility. It was therefore entirely logical that she should become first a Member of the Communities' Economic and Social Committee (in 1970) and then its Chairman.

Mrs Baduel-Glorioso thanked her colleagues "as a woman, a trade unionist and an Italian" for the honour conferred upon her. "Rhetoric aside, we must all recognize the role of women in society, the production process, political life and the unions. The movement for the liberation of women and the recognition of their contribution to society is one of the most significant phenomena of our time", said the new Chairman in her inaugural speech.

She went on to outline the difficult background against which the Economic and Social Committee would have to work during the next two years: internal strengthening of the Community, enlargement, and the negotiation of a second Lomé Convention with the developing countries. In this context, the Chairman stressed her determination to improve relations with the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers. She also felt that the Economic and Social Committee should in future make greater use of its right to deliver an opinion on its own initiative, without awaiting a request from one of the other institutions.

She also hoped to see the Committee become more "incisive", by speeding up the delivery of opinions and questioning the Commission on specific issues.

Mrs Baduel-Glorioso cited the achievements of the economic and social committees operating in several Member States as evidence of the potential contribution which such bodies could make to democratic life. Following this line of thought, she urged that the Committee's opinions should be drafted in a lucid, jargon-free style and that dissenting minorities should be given the opportunity of expressing their views in a note annexed to the majority opinion. This would give a clearer picture of the real spread of views, instead of a shaky compromise unsatisfactory to all concerned.

In conclusion, Mrs Baduel-Glorioso expressed the hope that the Community, with the strength given by its independence and 30 years' uninterrupted peace, would set an example of democracy for all its citizens.

2. EXTRACTS FROM THE SPEECH BY MR KOK, PRESIDENT OF THE FNV (NETHERLANDS TRADE UNION FEDERATION), AT THE SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS IN THE HAGUE ON 6 OCTOBER
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THE REALITY OF EUROPE FOR THE WORKERS

There has never been any real argument within the trade union movement in the Netherlands between supporters and critics of the European Community.

This is a good thing in itself, since such an argument would be all too liable to degenerate rapidly into petty, narrow-minded nationalistic squabbling.

The basic idea of the European Community and the need to cooperate in European integration have to all intents and purposes never been contested in our movement.

For the trade unionists of the Netherlands, the existence of the Community and Dutch membership are a reality.

Union support for European Integration

The importance of European integration is formally recognized in Article 5(3) of the FNV's 1975 Constitution:

"The Federation shall support all efforts directed towards transforming the European Community into a federation open to all democratic European States".

There are many reasons for this positive attitude, including:

- the historical considerations - a desire for peace and security at home and abroad;
- the vital importance of the common market for a small country like the Netherlands;
- the impossibility, to cite only a few examples, of combating unemployment and inflation, controlling the activities of multinational companies effectively or implementing a satisfactory development cooperation policy at national level alone;
- the legal framework - supranational in principle at least - which enables binding provisions to be adopted;
- the possibility of exercising at least a degree of influence over developments outside national boundaries.

The union movement regards fundamental social reforms as vital for the achievement of its objectives. Efforts to this end are mainly concentrated at national level, but really far-reaching structural reforms are only feasible within a broader international framework.

Given the scale of the European Community, its at least theoretically supranational framework and the fact that we are still a very long way from a world order, there is no other realistic and acceptable solution.

Criticisms of the Community in practice

Whilst many provisions of the Treaties have been implemented, progress in certain areas leaves much to be desired - the institutional structure is unsatisfactory, the decision-making process needs to become much more open and democratic and the coordination between social and economic policies is inadequate.

This has led to a widespread feeling of disillusionment with the Community in the population at large.

The lack of a democratic decision-making process in Europe is one of the reasons why the trade union movement has not hitherto had sufficient influence in the domestic affairs of the Community.

Furthermore, the Community policies and instruments introduced at the birth of the common market as an adjunct to the dismantling of barriers to trade are not equal to the task of preventing or evening out economic, social, sectoral and regional imbalances.

The answer to today's problems - the most important being, of course, unemployment - is not, however, to demolish the prototype form of integration, but rather to continue from within the fight for the adoption of a truly European approach to the problem.

The key words must be organization, planning and democratization.

Social and economic policies (EMU)

All the Member States are currently in difficulties.

Unemployment has reached an appalling level.

There are some 6 million unemployed in the Community as a whole, nearly half of them women; almost as many are under 25 and there is little prospect of a significant improvement in the situation.

Economic growth will be limited in the years to come.

It is not, however, enough to simply state the position - nor, indeed, to set goals without adopting the measures and instruments necessary for their achievement.

It is time that the Community proved its worth to the workers.

By this I mean that the Community's social and economic policies must make a significant contribution towards solving problems which can only partially be dealt with at national level.

I am thinking, in particular, of the need to overcome the present economic crisis and combat unemployment.

To this end, comprehensive agreements are required at Community level to create the conditions necessary for the broadest possible coordination of Member States' policies. Priority must be given to the coordination of social and economic policies within the framework of medium-term planning.

Instruments should be created to achieve these aims and enable policies to be modified if necessary.

It is important that there should be machinery for the transfer of responsibilities from national to Community level where appropriate. A common economic and social policy in the full sense must ultimately lead to Economic and Monetary Union. The achievement of complete EMU, i.e., the creation of a zone entirely without internal trade protection and parity changes is, however, bound to be a long process in view of the wide structural differences between the Member States. The agreement in principle on monetary cooperation, reached at the Bremen Summit, represents a promising start on the road to greater exchange rate stability.

Three requirements must be observed in implementing this plan - it must be seen as a step towards EMU, the whole Community must be involved and it must be combined with an effective strategy for economic and social revival.

The proposed European Monetary Fund should help to expand credit facilities; the prospect of enlargement of the Community makes this even more important than hitherto.

A European monetary bloc will also carry greater weight in world monetary affairs - e.g., monetary relations between the industrialized countries (dollar and yen) and its existence will encourage these countries to harmonize their policies in this field.

With regard to the next Tripartite Conference, to be held on 9 November 1978, the priority is to work out a structured economic revival strategy linked to a strategy for world growth geared to the interests of the developing countries.

One way of satisfying the developing countries' major needs in the short term, or at least with a relatively short time-lag, would be to step up official development aid to at least the internationally agreed level (0.7% net of GNP).

On the home front, the Community's policies should be centred on:

- maintaining and improving the real disposable incomes of disadvantaged groups;
- maintaining and improving the level of social security provision;
- stepping up action to save energy and protect the environment;
- increasing those types of public investment which both create significant numbers of jobs and meet major social needs;
- implementing demand - stimulating public sector projects without delay;
- encouraging the development of advanced technologies and improving the competitiveness of industry by the skilful application of these technologies;
- eliminating regional inequalities as quickly as possible;
- extending facilities for retraining and advanced training as a contribution to improving the quality of working life.

Economic activity must not, of course, be encouraged at the expense of the quality of working life, balanced regional development, economy of raw materials or the interests of the developing countries.

Without coordination at Community level, a selective growth policy is liable to create overcapacity in certain sectors and unleash a rash of competing national subsidies, ultimately creating hardly any additional jobs and weakening the efforts to help the poorest regions of the Community.

Thorough knowledge and sound orientation of investment plans are essential for a selective growth policy. In view of the need for transparency, the obligatory investment notification system should be extended at the earliest possible moment to cover all major sectors of the Community economy.

In order to establish a broad base for medium-term planning, the existing joint committees should be made more effective and others established so as to cover all major sectors of the economy. Community rules for selective investments are needed to stimulate and guide investment.

The sectoral policies of both the Community and the Member States are too narrowly limited to industries in difficulty and should be extended, as part of a coherent common industrial policy, to cover all major sectors whilst retaining close links with regional policy.

The workers and their unions must play a central role in planning and developing sectoral policies.

It is entirely unacceptable that the unions should have no say in Brussels, as seems liable to happen in the case of the textile industry. Our purpose in life is not simply to make the workers accept dismissals or to conclude redundancy agreements.

Current concerns of the FNV and the ETUC: Work-sharing

The redistribution of the available volume of work between those with jobs and job seekers must become a central feature of employment policies, which must also continue to be directed towards preserving and creating the largest possible number of jobs in the market sector, social services and education.

Work-sharing should, we believe, be achieved by reducing working time in certain clearly defined ways.

Priorities need to be established, taking into account the desires of the workers (a shorter working week, longer holidays, early retirement, etc).

Care must also be taken to ensure that the form and pace of reductions in working time make it possible to involve more people in the production process.

We want to do more than simply create opportunities.

Employment policy has become something of a forgotten subject, even at European level.

The Community and the individual Member States should draw up plans designed to achieve full, high-quality employment throughout the economy. These plans must show, at both sectoral and regional level, where jobs will be lost and where they can or must be created.

The Community will need to play an active role here in monitoring the implementation of national plans. A substantial increase is also needed in the Community's own scope for action in the field of employment policy, particularly as regards retraining and advanced training.

Greater attention should be devoted to the problems of the most vulnerable groups, such as young people and women, whose chances of obtaining jobs are slim.

Quantity is not everything - the quality of the jobs available also matters.

Too little importance continues to be attached to safety and hygiene at work, and indeed to the humanization of work in general.

The Standing Committee on Employment ought to be given a more active role.

This Committee could usefully be transformed into a framework for consultation between Council, Commission, employers and unions on the whole range of social and economic affairs.

The FNV regards the democratization of society, which implies increased union involvement, as an essential argument for the pursuit of European integration.

This democratization will give the citizens of the Community the chance to determine their own future and to work for the good of the whole world. Direct elections to the European Parliament are no more than a beginning.

It is up to those at the helm in Brussels and elsewhere to ensure that the trend continues.

The time will soon come for the Community to prove its worth as an instrument for social and economic revival and a bastion of democracy.

Only if it passes this test will workers in the Netherlands continue to believe in Europe.

3. MAIN POINTS OF MR DAVIGNON'S SPEECH AT THE SEMINAR ON STEEL ORGANIZED BY IG-METALL (THE GERMAN METALWORKING INDUSTRIES UNION) IN MULHEIM ON 7 NOVEMBER

The restructuring of the iron and steel industry in Europe is clearly more in the nature of a social operation than a simple technical one, since the principal concern is to maintain activity in the industry at highest possible level and thus preserve the maximum number of jobs.

Why is restructuring necessary?

Fundamentally, for two reasons.

In the first place, the Community steel industry's competitive position has deteriorated vis-à-vis the recently established steel industries of some non-member countries.

Secondly, Europe, like a number of other parts of the world, suffers from substantial overcapacity.

Restructuring will, of course, be a very long process. The Commission has therefore already introduced short-term measures to improve the situation on the steel market and forestall serious social repercussions.

These transitional measures are designed to hold the situation until the Commission can take (in 1979) and implement the essential decisions on restructuring.

Before preparing its restructuring programme, the Commission needed to decide what should be the objectives.

The first factor to be borne in mind is the outlook as regards demand. The indications are that demand will grow only by some 2% per year over the next few years as against 5% in the sixties.

The level of exports from the Community will not rise, as the trend is for other countries to develop their own steel industries. In addition, the steel industry is very sensitive to the worldwide slackening of economic activity.

What means can be used to ensure that the objectives of restructuring are achieved at undertaking level?

We will first need to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the industry and try to concentrate production around the most competitive installations. In addition, we should take advantage of the Community's main trump card - a high-quality work force - by concentrating on very advanced products with high value-added, in order to make up for the fact that wages are higher in the Community than in the majority of non-member countries recently entering the steel market.

In a market where a quarter of the total volume produced is traded internationally, it is clear that restructuring cannot be left solely to undertakings, groups of undertakings or even national authorities - the process needs to be planned in a global context.

The Commission does not, of course, intend to dictate every last detail of the restructuring operations, but rather establish broad guidelines leaving the undertakings considerable latitude, based on wide-ranging consultations with the employers and the unions.

The Commission will, in particular, be concerned to guide national aid measures and deter unsuitable investment plans by issuing adverse opinions.

Finally, we would stress that modernization can only be socially and politically acceptable if accompanied by certain supporting measures.

In particular, it will be necessary to create jobs in other sectors in the regions affected by the steel crisis and introduce measures such as early retirement in order to offset the loss of jobs in the iron and steel industry.

Substantial financial contributions from the Community will be needed for the implementation of such measures.

This explains the Commission's recent proposals to the Member States for an active social and regional policy in the areas affected by the steel crisis. At the same time, we stressed that failure to introduce effective measures to deal with the social repercussions of restructuring in good time might lead to a highly explosive social situation in 1979-80, when the first effects will begin to be felt.

The ball is now in the Member States' court.

The Commission's proposals for the steel industry amount to comprehensive policy with three main components:

- modernization of installations;
- structural conversion of the regions concerned;
- accompanying social measures.

We will naturally maintain close contact with the unions on all the problems connected with restructuring.

It also goes without saying that the action undertaken by the Commission to resolve the problems of the iron and steel industry can only be handled at Community level. Any return to national compartmentalization would be disastrous.

4. EUROPEAN TRADE UNION SEMINAR ON ENERGY ORGANIZED BY THE OTV/DGB IN BERLIN, 16-21 OCTOBER

The problems of energy policy - choice of energy forms, determination of needs, etc. - have been a central concern of trade unionists, industrialists, political leaders and leading figures in the Community institutions ever since the 1973 oil crisis.

It is to the credit of the energy sector union organizations in the Community that they were very quick to draw the attention of both national and Community authorities to the need for a common energy policy. The seminar on energy policy held in Berlin from 16 to 21 October is evidence of their continuing concern. This seminar, organized by the German Public Services, Transport, Communications, Energy and Water Distribution Union (OTV) was attended by energy sector delegates from all regions of the Federal Republic and representatives of the relevant trade union organizations in Belgium, France and the Netherlands.

Analysis and evaluation

Under the chairmanship of Mr G. Hecht the seminar analysed and evaluated Community energy policy over the past five years.

In line with the maxim that you should put your own house in order before criticizing your neighbour, Mr Hecht expressed regret that even after ten years the efforts to set up an independent, structured trade union group on energy at Community level had still not succeeded. The provisional group had, it was true, done good work, but there had been little progress in the last two years.

There was, however, light at the end of the tunnel, since it now looked as if it would finally be possible to constitute a structured trade union group on energy officially in London before mid-December 1978. Only then would it be possible to establish a European joint committee on energy with a view to discussing and perhaps overcoming the differences of opinion within the Community on energy policy.

Though the European trade union movement might, as it was quite ready to admit, have difficulty, because of its pluralism, in adopting common positions going beyond mere statements of principle, it was still far ahead of the European institutions themselves. In Mr Hecht's view, the Community had failed to keep its promises and the differences of opinion between the Member States on energy policy were still very wide.

Chances not high

In view of the lack of concrete results to date, the likelihood of success could, he felt, hardly be described as high, but there was no alternative: no salvation lay in a free-for-all situation.

The prospects for the future therefore needed to be considered carefully.

The various known or predicted factors were reviewed in turn by Mr H. J. Grawe from the German Federal authorities's viewpoint, Mr H. Magerl for the electricity producers, Mr Schlegel speaking on behalf of the Berlin Senate with regard to the city's special problems and Mr Jean Leclercq, the energy expert of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC).

Mr H. J. Grawe (Ministerialdirigent - assistant ministerial director - Stuttgart) believed that the world's total oil reserves, known or yet to come on stream, would be exhausted by the year 2030. A further determining factor was the Federal Republic's inability to supply its own needs. The Federal Government's energy policy therefore had four main aims: to find adequate sources of supply at acceptable prices; to guarantee energy supplies in the short and medium term; to make adequate provision for the long term; to protect the environment.

It was, he said, interesting to note that the last of these aims had changed the priorities accorded to the various energy sources in the Federal Republic within the last few years. Nuclear energy, which in 1973 had been regarded as the main source of energy for the future, was now rejected by both the ecologists and a substantial body of public opinion and had lost first place to natural gas and coal.

In answer to the objection that natural gas increased the Federal Republic's dependence on the producing countries, Mr Grawe pointed out that these countries had themselves invested heavily in the infrastructure required for the transport of the gas to the consumer countries. The need to amortize these investments would thus be an adequate - or at least substantial - long-term guarantee of supply.

The cost of certain choices

Mr H. Magerl, the Director of the Electricity Producers' Association (Hauptgeschäftsführer VdEW Frankfurt/Main - managing director of the Frankfurt/Main electricity works), adopted a rather different approach. The employers' representative could see no miracle solution and stressed the importance of bearing in mind that environmental protection implied political choices, in view of the substantial investments involved. Mr Magerl believed that it was vital to keep costs within reasonable bounds if the competitive position of industry was not to be compromised.

In reply to the question of whether a certain saving might not result from using raw materials such as natural gas or oil directly for domestic heating instead of first transforming them into electricity, Mr Magerl pointed out that not all primary energy sources could be used directly.

No to a nuclear power station in Berlin

The energy problems of Berlin merited a separate description and this was given by Mr Schlegel, the Director of the Berlin Senate. Participants would not, he said, be surprised to learn that Berlin safeguarded its independence by producing all its own energy. This policy of self-sufficiency was dictated by a combination of geographical and political factors.

The decline in population did not, Mr Schlegel said, imply a decline in consumption per household and besides, Berlin still wanted to attract new industries. Hence the fact that the city was suffering, if anything, from overcapacity in the field of energy production and was at present in no danger of experiencing a shortage.

Mr Schlegel's reply to the suggestion that a nuclear power station would be a sure way of guaranteeing energy supplies was that the Berlin authorities had no wish to commit political suicide and that, in any case, a nuclear power station in the middle of a city represented an unacceptable risk.

Reducing dependence

Drawing the threads together, Mr Jean Leclercq, the energy expert of the European Trade Union Confederation, stated that the prime objective for the Member States was to reduce their dependence on the energy suppliers and increase the solidarity between the consumer countries. In this context, he criticized the sort of attitude which had led a country like Norway to stay out of the Community so as - perhaps - not to have to share its North Sea oil.

Mr Leclercq emphasized the need for a political choice - energy policy should be determined by overall policy and not the reverse.

The temptingly easy option of dependence on one dominant energy source should therefore be avoided. Diversification of sources was one of the keys to greater independence for Europe as regards energy supplies.

European elections

Following this broad review of the problems involved in working out a common energy policy, the seminar considered the potential benefits of the direct elections to the European Parliament due to take place in June 1979.

Mr H. Ries, from the Directorate-General for Information (Trade Unions and Other Priority Milieux) of the Commission of the European Communities, reminded participants that direct elections would be taking place against a background of disquietingly high unemployment levels: 6 million unemployed in the Community as a whole, 40% of them young people under 25.

A total of 410 members would be elected but the new Parliament would have no more powers than the present one. These elections should, however, bring the Community into closer contact with public opinion, thus encouraging the democratization of its decision-making processes.

The unions, Mr Ries said, had an important role to play here since the Community could help to achieve greater social justice, one of the fundamental aims of the union movement.

5. EUROPE: THE DREAM AND THE REALITY

TWENTY-SIXTH EUROPEAN COLLOQUIUM OF THE DEUTSCHER GEWERKSCHAFTSBUND (GERMAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION) IN FRANKFURT ON 4 NOVEMBER

Several hundred people accepted the invitation to attend the twenty-sixth European Colloquium organized by the international department of the DGB in Bergen-Enkheim (a suburb of Frankfurt/Main) on 4 November.

Amongst those present were not only Federal and Land union leaders (from Hesse and the other Länder), delegates from individual undertakings and representatives of the employment services and the employers, but also representatives of the Federal Republic's two main political parties and a number of personalities including Mrs Fabrizia Baduel-Glorioso, the recently elected Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities, and numerous trade union leaders from other countries in Europe.

The intense interest aroused by the Colloquium was natural considering the social and political character of the theme chosen - "Social prospects in a United Europe", seen from both the political and the union viewpoints.

This choice of theme illustrated, as indeed had the previous colloquia, the DGB's active commitment to Europe. A paper distributed to participants outlining the DGB's European policy from the end of the Second World War to the present provided further evidence of this, as did the launching of its campaign for the elections to the European Parliament at a meeting of delegates in Salzgitter just before the Colloquium.

Discussion in the morning centred on the forthcoming direct elections and the applications by Greece, Portugal and Spain to join the Community. Amongst those who spoke were Mr Kurt Lewin (representing the Vereniging voor Vrijheid en Democratie, the Liberal Party of the Netherlands), Mr Luigi Granelli (responsible for international relations in the Italian Christian Democratic Party), Mr Gerard Jacquet (President of the Executive of the French Socialist Party) and Mr Kostas Nicolaou (Deputy from the Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement).

The DGB's well-known support for enlargement and legislative powers for the directly elected European Parliament and its opposition to the present system where each Member State has a veto in the Council of Ministers emerged strongly from the speeches and the numerous questions posed by trade unionists from the floor. Some union delegates were, however, worried that free movement of workers from the applicant countries might lead to undesirable fluctuations in migration during an economic crisis.

The contribution made to the discussion by a member of the Greek parliamentary opposition aroused considerable interest, both because of his exposition of his party's conditional opposition to Greek entry into the European Community and because of his agreement that a transitional period would be needed on the way to full freedom of movement in order to prevent a possible drain of young, skilled manpower.

Whilst many speakers alluded to the dangers of nationalism and the contradictions between the rich and poor countries, Mrs Fabrizia Baduel-Glorioso, Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee, stressed the conflicts between employers' and workers' representatives at various levels - including those within the Economic and Social Committee - and the importance of regarding this form of conflict as desirable in the sense that the assertion of minority views enriches the quality of democratic debate.

The second half of the day was devoted to a statement of union views on the present stage of European integration, with speeches from Mr Heinz Oscar Vetter (President of the DGB), Mr Lennart Bodstrom (President of the TCO, Sweden), Mr Wim Kok (President of the FNV, Netherlands), Mr Luciano Lama (General Secretary of the CGIL, Italy), Mr Jef Houthuys (President of the CSC, Belgium) and Mr Edmond Maire (General Secretary of the CFDT, France).

Discussion centred on the employment crisis (with the opening of the Third Tripartite Conference only a few days away) and the need to strengthen worker solidarity. Mr Maire explained in some detail why the CFDT was in favour of an "active and open" European Trade Union Confederation. Mr Kok attacked "zero growth" theories, highlighting their dangers for both developed and developing countries. Mr Bodstrom devoted most of his speech to the role of multinational companies and capital movements. With an eye to the renegotiation of the Lomé Convention, Mr Vetter also concentrated on certain anti-social practices indulged in by the multinationals, whilst Mr Houthuys made various specific proposals for action by the ETUC within the framework of the Tripartite Conference. Most attention was, however, attracted by the speech given by Mr Luciano Lama. In response to a question from the Chairman (Mr Erich Hauser, the Brussels correspondent of the "Frankfurter Rundschau") regarding his views on worker participation and co-management, the General Secretary of the CGIL spoke very frankly on the soul-searching currently going on within the leadership of his organization on this matter. The CGIL had initially been hostile to both worker participation and co-management (because these might tend to erode the "class identity" of the union) but the seriousness of the crisis and the need to monitor economic planning had forced it to adopt a more flexible attitude to "worker participation in the control of the economy". The danger that a doctrinaire refusal to have anything to do with worker participation might prove to be the road to impotence had thus inevitably caused a shift in policy. Equally interesting was Mr Lama's proposal that the European Trade Union Confederation should draw up a programme for the new European Parliament. This would then be submitted to all the parties putting forward candidates and the unions could decide how to advise their members to vote on the basis of the parties' reactions.

The response to this suggestion was generally favourable.

Mr Maire, however, made the point that the unions should not simply present a list of demands but rather a comprehensive and coherent programme. Drawing the Colloquium to a close, Mr Vetter stressed the need for constant union vigilance in the face of the third technological revolution and for renewed efforts to break the monopoly of economic power.

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